CERTEIN LETTERS VVHERIN IS SET forth a Diſcourſe of the Peace that was attempted and ſought to haue bin put in effecte by the Lords and States of Holland, and Zelande in the yeare of oure Lorde 1574.

ALSO A SVPPLICATION put vp by the ſaide States of Hollande and Zeland, and other places of the Low Countryes to the King: together with the aunſvvere and a Reply vppon the ſame, and diuers other particularities.

PSALME 28.

O Lord God take me not away with the wicked, nor with them that commit iniquitie, which ſpeake peace to their neighbours, & imagine miſchiefe in their harts.

IMPRINTED AT LONdon in Fleeteſtreate by Thomas Marſhe.

ANNO 1576.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO the intent to giue ſome lighte to ſuche as are not acquainted with the ſtate of the affayres and controuerſies of Hollande and Zelande, and to ſtoppe the mouthes of malicious aduerſaries, which ceaſſe not to reporte al maner of vntruth and reproch of the noble valeaũt and vertuous prince the Prince of Orendge & his adherẽts, & of the iuſt caſe which they maintein: here is tranſlated a ſhort Diſcourſe, of the originial cauſe and ground of their entering into Armes, togither with a nomber of weyghtie & ſubſtantial reaſons, wherby they iuſtifie their doing by good conſcience and equitie. And it is the rather ſet forthe at this tyme, becauſe ſome of the parties and authors therof bee now here, as *Mounſieur Sainct Aldegond*, and *Moũſieur Champagny* and others, who may iuſtify the ſame (as neede ſhall requyre) to the open mainfeſtation of the truth with out further trauel. Read with aduiſemẽt, and iudge indifferently, as the righte of the matter ſhall leade the.

Sum Dea, quæ rara, & paucis, Occaſio nota.

To his very friend E. B. esquier affectionate friend and deuotiste seruaunt vnto the fayre and vertuous Lady the Countesse of Culenberghe.

THis olde prouerbe (as commonly all other) hath his groud vpon knowe experience, Malus animus, mala mens, an euill affection maketh an euill construction. Men wrest or driue the interpretaciō of doings to the frame of their owne cōceits, which they deriue from the fauour or disfauour that they haue settled in their owne perswasions. It is not vnknowen what extraordinary discourses, & what priuate fancies in common meetigs, are daily made of the case of our neighbours in the low Country. Such maner of debatinge where cōtrary opinios haue distracted you, seeme to be the cause of your question, wherof you desire to be resolued in your letters.

You coulde not haue written to a man more indifferent than I am: who am as farre from partialitie, as he that loueth, (that is to say preferreth) neither party before other, but our country before thē both. I do therefore (as I wish you to doe) set the pin of the be[illegible] and examine the weight of ei[illegible] vs then cōpare the sides, [illegible] the sharper, that we maye [illegible] milder ending.

First I will call to minde, what thone of those sides obiecteth:

Secondly what thother aunswereth: And thirdly what to drawe to concerne our selues.

In the matter of obiection, let vs see what strength it hath in iustice:

In the matter of defence, let vs see what weight it hath in equitie:

And for the matter of Our selues, let vs see what necessity, what commodity, what right, and what facilitie it is said to beare, to draw vs to any side.

It is

It is sayd by some, which are loth that Spaine should be weaker or Englande stronger, that the Prince of Orendge & his adherẽts are rebels in Armes againſt their natural Prince, and maintayners of a moſt daungerous preſident againſt all Princes.

To this is answered on thother part (as in this booke you shal see discoursed) that there is difference of the bande & maner of their subiection from other. None of them holdeth that a king maye be shaken of by his subiects, but they all saye, that Lords electible vpon pacts & conditions are also reiectible accordige to the same pacts & coditions, specially in Dominions subiecte to the ciuill lawes, which are not the Lawes of England. The order of eche state is to be regarded: not all States haue kings. Some haue other formes of gouernment. Not all kingdoms haue like maner of admiſsions or receyuings of kings. Som follow natural ſucceſsion of bloud: ſome Choiſe:

some Lot or chaunce. Some kinge or rulers haue simple & absolute power: some limitted & circumscribed. The Erles of Holland and Zeeland (as is well knowe & many examples haue proued) at their Ioyous entree (that is to saye, at their receyuinge to inauguration or setsen of their Estate) be bound by oth to prescribed pacts & orders whereby not onelye their forme of rule is bounded, but also vpon diuers points the subiects homage & allegiance expresly discharged. And that discharg in fact hath bin executed, & by such fact, (say they,) the auncestors of the Prince himself that now chargeth them, haue bin receyued. The Prince and states of that Country alledge the othe of their Earle, the precise forme of assoylmēt vpon his breach of their Priuiledges: they produce one chiefe point, that they ought not to be pestered with gouernaunce or garrison of straungers: they recken vp thinvollerable, outragious & manifest oppressions done vpon

them

them, and the euident practise to bring that free Nation to most vnsufferable seruitude: they shield themselues vnder the liberty & right of Nature, the prouisions of agreements, the othes of their Princes, their power of refusall vppon their Princes periurie, wyth many like matters; wherof they make the warlde Iudges by their many Protestations, Apologies, Iustifications, & Supplications to the states of the empyre, & other meanes alwaye seuering their case from other subiectes of Natural and absolute Kinges.

FOR (say they) in their case of resistinge the Kinge, these thinges are to be considered; the nature of the Gouernement and subiection, & the cause of resistance, and thirdly the maner of the resistance. The nature of the Gouernment & the subiection stādeth in these two considerations. i. Whether it bee Merum Imperium, that all thinges may be done Pro voluntate Regnantis: or it be Moderatum

deratum, which is Temperatũ Legibus, wherein the Ruler hath his rule prescribed him which way to rule, & the Subiect a Paterne described him which way to obey. If the Gouernment be Merum & absolutũ, then is the Person inferiour, a slaue and no subiecte. For in all due subiection there is Taxis, which is neuer in Voluntate. If the Gouernmente be Temperatum, then is thinferiour a subiect and no slaue.

IN all subiection there is an honest liberty giuen by Law it self, whereby all Actions and Pleas in Lawe are as open to the subiect as to the ruler, for the maintenaunce of truth and equitie. In slauerie there is none such: because he is not to be measured but by the will of the Ruler, which howsoeuer it turneth, is his right: & he hath no actiõ of Appeal or Plea to the contrary.

Then it followeth that the Law is the rightest Auctoritie, and the same is to be maintayned by all the iust and rightfull executers of it: for if the Lawe

be not mayntained, the life of the whole common wealth is lost.

This mayntenaunce of the Lawe no man doubteth whether it ought to bee or no: for it is thende whie Counsellers & vndermagistrats are appoited: yea it is the cause of placing the highest Magistrate hymselfe. So that to maintayne the Lavv, is iudged meete by all men: if the Lavv be iust.

But whether the Law may be mayntayned agaynst the Highest Magistrate or no, that is the doubt. For hereupō this maintenance of Law is called resistāce, and is called Rebellion?

This question doth imply a contradiction: for it importeth that thone is agaynst thother, & no man can serue two Maisters: & sostādeth the whole cāse in the righteousnes of the Lavv, which for the present purpose is presumed to be most iust & most holy. Vvhy then? The Person that is agaynst this Lavv, goeth about to disanull that that is

most iust and most holy, & labourethto bring in that, that is most vniust, most vnholy. For touchinge his owne person the question and debate standeth not, but for thinforcing of the subiects to the same.

VVHY then, there is no doubt but as it is confessed of all me, euen of them that neuer knew God, and of them that do professe God, that iustice is to be maintayned against iniustice, Godlines against vngodlines, & God against the deuill: els were the law no law, neither the subiect a subiect: being (as I sayd before) a person licenced to liue in liberty of law.

Thus by the nature of Gouernment & the subiection, it is euidente that the rightest Magistrate may be resisted, & this resistance is truly a maintenaunce of Law & equitie and so to be termed, and untruly and vniustly called Rebellion. For these words of rebellion and suche like cannot iustlye bee vsed, but where the wyll of the Ruler and the law

are

are concurrent and agree in one.

By this that hath him ſelfe of the Gouernment it ſelfe, enſueth a right anſwere to the cauſe of reſiſtance. Nothing may cauſe reſiſtance to the Magiſtrate but the maintenaunce of righte and equitie: for there is no equitie in this, that the will of the ſubiect ſhould ſtande for a lawe to the Prince, where the ſubiect thinketh it vnmeete that the will of his Prince ſhould ſtande for a lawe of his ſubiection. This is againſt Iuſtice diſtributiue, which the Heathen teachim their common wealth, & flatly againſt the rule of GOD: Thou ſhalte not do to thy Neighbour, that thou vylte not haue don to thy ſelfe.

SO then he that hath law & maintaineth the law, is reſiſted on which part ſoeuer he be: & he that reſiſteth the law is a rebell and traitour whoſoeuer he be: for the law is the life of the comon weale. And the conſideration of reſiſtance ſtādeth not in the perſon, vnleſſe hee haue the law with him: if he be not Lex loquēs,

he is

he is not resisted, but resisteth.

But euery man may not resist. They onely that are made keepers of the Lawes, to thē it belogeth: otherwyse there would be a confusiō, and euery man encroche vpon an others office. The shedding of bloude is murther in euery priuate man: but if a Magistrate do it, he doth it lawfully, and is excused before man, and doth his dutie to God. For hee beareth not the sword in vaine.

IN sum, where the kind of Gouernment is tempered by Law, & the Prince hath aswell to liue by law as the subiect: if the Prince wil breake this Law which is iust, & enforce an obedience to a law vniust against the will of the Subiects: the law may be maintayned agaīst him, by such as are appointed from God & the law, to be Gardians & kepers of the law. But the case of the Prince of Orenge & his associats stādeth in ỹ same termes. The king with whom he hath to deale had auctoritie Temperatam Legibus: hee

was

vas ſworne aſwel to the keeping of thoſe
awes and bringing in of no new, as the
ubiects vvere, & if hee brake his othe,
hey vvere quit of all obedience. This
ppeareth in Forma iuramenti, vvhich hee
oke at his Ioyous entraunce.

This othe & Lavv vvas broken by
riging in a nevv lavv of Inquiſition,
vvhich tended to the vtter ſupplãting
of the Prince and ſtates of the country,
vvhich notvvythſtanding they endu-
red for a ſeaſon, vſing al dutiful meanes
by complaints made from the counſell &
ſtates at diuers & ſodry times, as are to
be ſeene, but coulde haue no redreſſe in
deede, though oftentimes they had faire
promiſes. VVhen iuſtice could not be
had by vvay of iuſt complaint from the
Couſell & States: the Prince & States
toke the maintenaũce of the lavv into
their ovvne hands, and ſo retaine it by
Iuſtice, reſerving the auncient liberties
& lavves to the beneſite of all the ſub-
iects, ſo ẏ none cõplayneth of wrõg done

vnto

vnto him, but the will of that Prince who woulde his will shoulde preuaile a-gaīst Law to the subuersion of the whole state, as appeareth in their Records.

Therfore this maintenaunce of law by the Prince of Orenge, is right, againſt the breaker of Lawe and bringer in of Tyrannie, the Spaniſh kinge. They ſay, briger in of Tirāny & breaker of Law, for that contrary to his oth, whereby both he & all the Estes of Holland & Zelād haue him receiued into ỹ gouernmēt, & no otherwyſe but vpon thoſe condicions limitted to them by their ſaid oth, he altereth the whole state of gouernmente, leaueth no law but his own will, & ſo vſeth himſelf, as though he had neuer bin ſworne, nor taken the countries with condicion, but had entred as an abſolute conquerour: Farre inferiour therin to Heathē & barbarous Prices. VVe read of Cyrus the greate Monarche of the Eaſte, that aboue all his ſinguler vertues, which purchaſed him ſo greate a

Fame

Fame as euer any Prince had, hee had this in him, that he suffered all Natios vnder his Monarchie to enioye their owne Lawes, customes, liberties & religion, and made no alteration against their wills. The like we finde recorded of Alexander the Greate, who vsed himselfe after the same sort in all his conquests, contenting him onely with the Soueraignties ouer ꝑ Natios which he subdued, without any alteratiō of their Estate. And did not the auncient Romaynes walke after the same sorte, whe they subdued any Nation to their obedience? Did they euer alter the state of any coutry which they conquered, & enforce their people to receiue their lawes and Religion? What course vsed Iulius Cæsar in his Conquests of France? Did he chaug any one iote of the state of those Cities which he conquered? Thus was the behauiour of those barbarous Princes, euen in their Conquests: such moderation and equitie vsed they

euen

euē in the middes of their fire & sword.

The kinge of Spaine came not in by force, he was receyued by curtesie, & receiued as a Patrone and Protectour of their liberties, and vpon this condition onely, had the Seignories giuen him, as to his predecessours before him, that hee should keepe those Lawes and liberties safe & sound, by vertue of which, & for preseruation wherof they cast vpon him the Erledom, as they had don in former times vpon his auncesters. Vppon this condition he take it, & to this conditi- he swore, as all his aūcesters did, submitting & yelding himselfe to the like dishonour that other had incurred before him, & by whose fall his aunncesters came into that preferment, if he committed the like trespasse against the states. To this, (I say) he was boūd by oth, let himself be demaunded, if he cā denie it, they are cōtent to stand to the condemnation of all the world, as fals accusers of so mighty a Prince, in charging him wyth

per-

periurie, a most horrible crime both before God & man. But hee wil not, hee doth not denie it, it is confessed of himself and published by Print in his owne bookes, vnder his owne Priuiledge. How thē stādeth his case & theirs? was he not bound by oth to obserue their lawes? And in case he or any of his officers & Ministers did not obserue but breake them, did he not expresly charge & enioyne al his subiects by the same oth to make resistance against him & them, and in no wyse to yeld him any obedience, vntil he stoode and yelded to the fulfilling of his othe? The matter, as I sayde, is to euident, bookes imprinted vnder his owne Priuiledge vouch it to all the vvorlde. And shall they that stand for the maintenance of a lawe so iustly, being further charged thereto by the kings owne oth, be notvvithstandinge deemed for rebels? Surely if there be no more than so, wee haue no reasō so to esteeme or iudge

of

of the. Me might do no more, if either the king's auctority ouer the were absolute, or they had contrary to all right of obediẽce, made resistãce there, where they ought to haue shewed all obediẽce. But as the vvorld is not able to charge them vvith the one, so the king I suppose will not chaleng vnto himself the other. VVe finde recorded by all that are learned as vvell heathen as Christians, as vvell in lavves of the Gẽtiles as in the lavves of God: that it is one thing to be Princeps supremus, a Superiour & highest gouernour: & an other thing to be Senior absolutus, an absolute lord. The one importeth a soueraintie & chiefrie of all y are within ane list of lavv, as the highest minister of the lavv, but yet he himselfe vvithin the compasse of the same lavv: the other meeth a person vvithout the compasse of al iurisdiction, a cõtroller of all men, & to be controlled of none. VVho so vvould chaleng this latter point to be the right of the kings ti-

tle

title in those countryes, (I meane) that he would make him an absolute Lorde, not a Supreme and highest Gouernour) shee should greatly discredite his honour in taking his othe. For force any personne whatsoeuer he bee, to take an othe and not to mynde to keepe it, is in that degree of dishonoure, as carryeth with it an impietie against GOD himselfe, and ingendreth a iuste suspicion in all men that shall haue to deale with him: for who would contract with that mā in any sorte, that cares & will make so small accompte of that, which hee hath called God himselfe to witnes of, & vowed to his Maiestie to keepe, in the presence of the Angels. I can not thinck so euill of the honour of a Prince, as that he would enter into so greate impietie: I iudge honourably of the Kinge of Spaine, and therefore I may not deeme, that he was of the Nature of that wicked Heathen, that sayd for excuse of himselfe, in a case of like quality. Lingua iurauj, mentem iniu-

ratam

iuratum gero: I ſvvore wyth my tongue, ſo that my tongue ſtandeth bounde by othe, but I eary a minde and hart about me that hath not ſworne, ne ſtandeth ſo tyed. Be it farre from any Chriſtian, to haue ſo euill an opinion of any Chriſtiã, wee haue not ſo to thincke of any Heathen, vnleſſe we heare him ſpeake and proteſt ſo, as that wretched caitife did. VVe ſee euidently by his ovvne confeſſion, & teſtimonie of all the world, that ſuch an oth he toke, and the honourable opinion that we oughte to conceyue of the Maieſtie of a Kinge muſte needes perſvvade vs, that hee meant them as he ſwore. As he ſwore (I ſay) when hee in the ſame article exempted them from all obedience, and armed them that should attempte ought to the contrary: If hee ſvvore this, and mente this, then are they no rebelles, in fulfillinge that, vvhich hee charged them vppon theyr othes.

But vvhat ſaye they, that vvil (not-

vvith-

vvithstandinge) iuſtifie the Kings doinges and blame the ſubiectes with ſo greeuous a crime. For no one iote of that that is aforeſayd can be denyed. They ſaye that the Pope, who hath from GOD Plenitudinē poteſtatis, Fulnes of powver, did diſpenſe vvith him from this othe. Firſte if that bee ſo, that the Pope hath freed him from his othe, then hath hee by the ſame facte freed them from their obedience: for they vvere in no wyſe, nor by vertue of any title ſubiecte to him, but by vertue and title of his othe. Take the grounde of their ſubiection avvay, and they are not ſubiect but free.

But vvhether it he ſo or no, that the Pope hath throughe his abſolute power, (which he calleth Plenitudinē, fulnes of powver) freed him from that othe, I knovv not: onely this I know, that the Biſhop of Arras, aftervvard Cardinal of Granuile gaue him ſuche Counſell, & ſayd the Pope should do ſo. And if it

followed so in effect, as it may be wel coiectured by the sequel, (for no doubte a king would not stād so stoutly to the defence & maintenaunce of such impietie against God & man, as periurie is, vnlesse he had some better ground & warrante) this wilbe a Caueat, and a lesson for all Princes & States to teach them to bevvare howe they deale anye more with the kinge of Spaine, or any other that giueth such credite to ꝑ Pope. For what assurance cā they haue of all their Contracts and Leagues that passe and are made betwene them, if the othes taken, may be dispensed withall at the Popes pleasure? That were nothing els in deede and effecte, but to bring all true Christian Kinges and Princes, vvhich make conscience and put a Religion in the bretch of their othes, into bondage & slauery: to make them serue the pleasure and profite of the other Romishe kinge: vvho mindeth no further to obserue his, then shall stande vvith his benesite,

nefit, or pleasure of that higher power of Rome. If the case stand so, what faults soeuer Princes haue committed in former time in this behalf, I doubt not but they wilbe wyser and more circumspect hereafter. I meane they will make no leagues nor take anye othes of the Pope or any Princes and States of his adherentes, seing they haue so plaine a president in this case, that their othes may & shalbe dispensed wythall, when and how ofte soeuer they liste. I suppose there vvas such a clause in the Contract that vvas made vvith the kinge of Spayne for the mariage of Queene Mary, that he should not alter or chaunge any one iote of the Lawes and Customes aswel publike as priuate of the Realme of England, if he had broken this braunch, & vouched the equity of his dealing therin, vppon a licence & dispensation from the Pope, I doubt sore whether the people and States of England would haue taken that for good payment: I doubte

I say, whether the Nobility and Commons of Englande, would haue ſuffered him vnder that cloake, to haue banished all the Lawes of Englande and brought in the gouernmēt of Millan or Naples? I doubt, whether the Nobles and people of England would haue bin accepted rebels for withstanding ſuch breatch of Contract. I doubt, whether they would haue ſuffred him ſo quietly to haue caryed awaye the Crowne from the Queenes Maieſtie to haue ſet it vpon his Spaniards heads? And yet hee might as iuſtly haue done that, as this, if this rule be good. We may thanck God we are deliuered from him, wee cannot tell what he woulde haue done, though wee may ſurmiſe by this preſident, what he might haue pretended. I tell you, this excuſe of periurie may ſeeme reaſonable to them that are of his Court, for ſuch a God they haue: but it is a perillous preſident for vs, vnleſſe wee bewware of it. If it ſeeme a good plea for king Philip to

ſaye

ſay, he hath not broken his othe herein, becauſe the Pope diſpẽſed with him, what maye all Princes that haue made Contracts with him loke for, but iuſte quarrell againſte themſelues to be reuenged both with fire and ſworde, when ſoeuer the Pope ſhall liſt to diſpenſe? And I am afrayde the benefite of this diſpenſation wilbe vſed, if at any time they may haue oportunity (which God forbid) for ꝑ Q. Ma. & the realm of Englād as they ſay, ſtand excõmunicat: if ſo thẽ all oth is diſpẽſed withall, you know that very well. How be it if Chriſtiã Prĩces, which profeſſe God & conſcience, ſhall iudge this dealing to be good, & if they can ſo eaſily perſwade thẽſelues, that ſuch maner of dalying with othes, is Chriſtiã & Prĩcelike, ſurely then wil I as they ſay & conclude ꝑ the K. of Spaine hath right, and the Prince of Orenge & States of Holland & Zelande haue wronge, that his bretch of oth, law & cuſtome, is lawful, & they in withſtãding it, are rebels & traitours.

But

But if they shall iudge with the truth, as truth is in deede, that no mortall man can dispense with an othe that bindeth the consciences of men, for it is a matter within the iurisdiction of God alone, & againe, if they shal cõsider this with thẽ selues, that all the right and title that the King of Spaine hath to those countryes is onely by vertue of this othe and no otherwise, so that his superioritie ouer them stãdeth but by way of Stipulation, if hee performe those conditions, (for hee hath no better title then all his predecessours had) then will they easelie resolue, that there is great fault in that pretence, yea very preiudicious and an euill presidente to all Princes that haue to contract with him: & on the other side, that the Prince and the States do in iustice and equitie both before God and man what they do: and are not to be charged with these greeuous termes of Rebels and Traytours.

NOVV for our owne case, (say they

that

that like of that parte) it is good to remember for the neceſſitie, what neighbours we haue & what mīds our neighbours haue: vvhat affections haue bin vttered, in ſubſcriptions to the Counſel or conſpiracie of Trent, wherin the deſtruction of all Proteſtant Princes (& namely of ỹ Queene & Realme of England) haue bin determined: vvhat practiſes haue bin vſed & furthered to aduaūce ỹ pretēſed title of the cōpetitrice of her Maieſties crowne: what intelligēces entred with the rebels of England: what ayds promiſed to them in their actuall rebellion: how the rebels haue bin receiued, ſuccoured and releeued wyth penſions, & maintayned there, ſithens theīr ouerthrowe here: what letters of Marck or diſguiſed Pyracie againſt Engliſh ſubiectes graūted to Don Thomas Coppley, graund Lorde of the Maze, Gatten, Rowghey, and of many other gaping ſounds of petie titles, & ſuch other little fellowes, beſides Stories Cōmiſſi-

on:

on: How in those dominions daily bookes haue bin published with open warrant, priuiledge, and allowaunce most slaunderous to the Queene, and seditious against her state: How the traiterous Papists are there vpholden in credite and dignitie, who doubte not continually to affirme, that he cannot erre that hath pronounced our Queene depriued: what deuises haue bin vsed by one Embassadour, a holy bishop, the Bishop of Aquila, against her Maiestie and her Counsell: How by an other Embassadour De Spese, lewde and vncomely letters haue bin written vnder saucy signes of the names of Oriane Amadis, and such vnprincely toyes, audaciously to reatch at the honour of such a moste vertuous, high & noble Queene: Howe the same rashe personage hath not bin misliked there for his so doing: How the Bull of her Maiesties depriuation, & of the assoyling of her subiects frō their allegiaūce, hath bin printed, spred abroade, set

ſet vpon poſts, & magnificētly deliue-
red to knowledge in the low Countryes
remayninge vnder that Princes rule:
How in Spaine it ſelf, her Ma. ſubiects
are daily take & impriſoned, manacled
tormented & exquiſitely murdered in
cōtēpte of her Maieſties honour, and ꝧ
ſafe freedō of mutual trafique: How ꝧ ho
ly Inquiſitiō is permitted dayly to rage
againſt Englishmē, for praying to God
euen on Seabord, accordig to the lawes
of the Church of England: Howe the
Prince excuſeth thē, by ſaying he cānot
diſobey the Church. And muſt he obey
the Church, in following their ſentence
that the Queene of Englād is depriued
of her Crowne? The euident apparence
that he lacketh onely opportunity to in-
uade England: a thing moſt apt for ex-
tending his conqueſt, and a thing moſt
needefull for him, wherewith to reteyne
the reſt of his owne.

One moſt vrgent neede, not to haue
him to ſtrong. One moſt important pol-
licy,

licy, to hold warre farther of, rather thã to draw it home. Infinite are both the reasons & occasions that this cause deliuereth.

For the cõmoditie, behold (say they) the fruitful land: the dominiõ of Sea by situaciõ: the neerenes of the Continẽt to hold our warres, or do displeasures farther of from England: the rule of trade both of the riuer of Rhene, and land of Germany: the commodities pasing that vvay both for Marchandise and Nauigation: as Cables, Pitch, Tarre, Mastes & other matter for Shippes, to be plentifull to our selues, & scarce to our enemyes at oure pleasures, the greater increase & safety of the trade of our marchants euery where. But of these profits there is no end. And among other this is the greatest, that they vvill not (like Ireland) be chargeable, but a most Noble encrease of reuenevves to the Crovvne, able at their ovvne charge to defende themselues vnder her Ma-

iesties

gisties name & protection, and to serue the Realme of Englād: a Nauie ioyned with her Maiesties Nauie, and mariners able to hold and driue from Sea all Princes in Christēdom. Finally Safety, Riches, Stregth, and honour.

For right, their offers (say they) make it apparent both by discent in her Ma. (if the holder against his oth will stand vpon discent alone): electiō by the States vpō breach of othes & pacts: on thother parte rightfull conquest vppon iust causes, for so manifest iniuries & perils: a conquest I say, yet with a sweete and easye yoke to ye people willing to receiue it. For facility, is to be marked (saye they) their owne offer, the readinesse of the people to embrace, their owne strēgthe to haue stand thus long alone, the distracting of the aduersary, & all cōmodious opportunities, delyuered by God him self. And to all these good meanes, the moste glorious acte to releue the Church of God against Papists, the violaters

lators and enemyes of publike naturall and Christen fayth, the great meane to appease the controuersies of Christendome for Religion.

Adde also the noble pollicy & fitnes, to enter into vniuersal league of Christians against the Pope & Popish conspiracies: the aide of so noble a Prince, the Prince of Orenge, so able, so worthy and so likely a man to serue Christendom against the Empire of the Turcke, & tyranny of Rome: the greedy ioye of her Maiesties people to follow her pleasure in pursuing of such a noble enterprise.

Thus you see what I haue heard say on all sides: I leaue to you the iudgment of all these conceits: I leaue to Counsellers the gouerning of vs all by the best aduises and directions: who (I doubt not in their wisedoms) do see the best: & in this Parliamẽt cã lack no help of consent & sinewes, that this Realme cã giue. And I leaue to God the guidinge of harts & successes.

But

But beside all that I haue noted be-
fore as ꝑ opiniõs of other, this you shall
take as mine owne full beleuing: that it
is not in our will to haue peace by lettig
them alone, when the aduersary tarieth
but to subdue them, that he may aduaũce
himself agaĩst vs. But to hold warre fur-
ther of, both in place and time is now
offered to her Maiesties Election.
Peace she cannot haue sure, by peace.
And one notable matter I hear of: they
be most desirous ꝑ England will receiue
them: but rather then they will returne
to their old thraldome, they will creepe
vnder the yoke, euen of the Muscouite or
Turke himselfe. Much rather will they
yeld them to Fraunce, that hath now so
many armies ready to take hold of thẽ,
if Englãd reiect thẽ. That consequence
may proue ill for vs: And I do not take
it certaine that Fraunce shall for euer
haue ciuill warres. It maye be that God
after the bloud of so many Martirs, wil
giue peace to his Church in Fraũce. You
see

see ther is but one life betweene them
the succeſsiue raigne of many toller
Prīces. If God should bereaue the wo
of the preſent French king ſodenly, or
therwyſe bleſſe Fraunce wyth an othe
or that the Kinge of neceſsity yelde to
firme peace: How eaſly vpon our refuſ
vuill the alliaunce of the Prince of O
renge wyth the houſe of Fraunce, draw
Holland and Zeland to Fraunce. O
merueylous aduauncement of Fraun
by ſea and land! Shall they be lords
Traſique, Lords of furniture of Shippi
Lords of great & many shippes & go
harborowes, & (that moſt is) ſo greate
ſo neere vs? I pray God it neuer be, th
may be ſo daungerous.

LIKE AS in time paſte, oure aduerſaries haue alwayes frō the beginning pickte quarrels againſt our cauſe, with intente to procure a greater miſlike thereof in all mennes mindes, and to that effecte haue framed many ſigned ſlaunders, in layinge to our charge, that wee are not onely fallen awaye from the faythe, but alſo become rebells againſt the Maieſtie of the Kinge of Spaine oure ſouereigne and naturall Prince, to thende that vnder the ſhadowe of ſuch fine coulours, they might both blemiſhe the eyes of the ſimple ſorte which are altogether ignorante of the cauſe, and alſo ſeeme cloſely to couer their owne diſordinate greedines of gaine, euen to the face of the wyſeſt, vnleſſe they bee the better acquainted with thoſe affayres: Euen ſo wee aſcertaine oure ſelues, that they will not ſticke (by all meanes they maye) hereafter likewyſe to practiſe the drowninge and vtter ſuppreſſinge of all ſuch true dealing, as doth nowe but begin by litle and litle to come to lighte. They publiſhe and proclaime, (although moſte vntrulye) that wee are the perſons that will giue no eare to any agreemente, be it neuer ſo reaſonable:

and that we endeuour our ſelues to ſeeke no-
thing els but how we may maintayn this ciuil
diſſention and dangerous warres within our
owne booſome, although it procure the vtter
deſtruction of this our poore Country: and all
for our pleaſure (they ſay,) becauſe wee are
minded to bend our wills & appetits to croſſe
his Maieſtie. Thus do they ſtill cauil. Where-
fore to thend that none may hereafter by gi-
uing to light credit to their falſe reports, ſo
much abuſe themſelues, as to condēne thoſe
that are innocentes, and to iuſtifie ſuch as be
moſt cruell enemies to iuſtice: Wee thought
it moſt neceſſary (after many ſupplications at
diuers & ſodry times exhibited vnto his ma-
ieſtie) yet once againe to publiſh this our laſt
requeſt made vnto him, & therwithall to lay
before your eyes, all ſuch meanes as haue bin
made on our parte for the appeaſinge of this
warre, as ye may moſt plainly perceiue by ſe-
ing of ſuch letters, as haue bin written on ey-
ther part to that effect, without adding or di-
miniſhing any thing therin, to thēd that euery
man may iudge without any ſuſpicion, accor-
ding to the truth of the matter. Meaning
thereby moſt manifeſtly to ſhow forth, both in
whō lyeth the originall cauſe & beginning of

this

this warre, & also who is most to be blamed, for that we attame not vnto a perfecte peace and vnity. Moreouer, that we haue alwayes acknowledged the kinge of Spaine to be oure Soueraigne Prince and liege Lord, as one giuen vnto vs of God to rule and gouerne vs with all iustice and equity, according to such contractes as we weare both bound vnto, and according to such aunciente Rights, Vsages, Liberties, and Priuiledges, as hee hath bin most solemply sworne vnto: and that we haue alwayes had our recourse vnto him most hũble and with al due reuerence. For albeit that some pretending a fayned desire of quietnes and vnity in our Country, haue priuately perswaded vs, that in oure treaty of peace, wee must looke especially to the obseruing of two points, that is to witte, that respect of the dignity and Maiesty of the King be kept moste inuiolable, and that in anye wyse no mention be made of the alteringe of Religion: and although we haue had most euident proofes to perswade vs, that this is not the way to mittigate the mortall hatred of oure enemies, but rather to encrease and sharpen it: Yet neuertheless we haue in all pointes behaued oure selues soreasonably, and wyth so great humi-

litie, as euen our enemies them ſelues cannot accuſe vs (and ſay truly) but that we haue in all poinctes obſerued a dutifull order, as moſte plainly ſhall appeare by the diſcourſe followig. Conſidering that wee haue franckly remitted the whole iuſtice of our cauſe, vnto the Iudgmēt of his Maieſtie, & the generall eſtates of our Countrie. Hoping that they, both beinge better acquainted with our eſtate, & alſo better affectioned, both to the King and countrye then Straungers can bee: might the rather haue both the meanes & the will, to giue ſuch counſell vnto the king, as may be moſt expedient for the ſeruice of his Maieſtie, for the eſtabliſhig of a perfect peace & vnitie amōgſt vs, and laſt of all, for ſetting our cōutry in her auncient proſperitie. Hereuppon our aduerſaries (contrary to our expectacion) haue behaued themſelues with ſuche partialitie, as they woulde not once ſo much as haue any regarde or reſpectie vnto our requeſt made vnto his Maigſtie, but vſurpig the ſoueraigne dominiō of our Country, they haue cleane depriued his Maieſtie from all libertie of Iudgmēt, and according to their owne appetite & will, cleane barred our cauſe frō all knowledge of Iuſtice, of ſet purpoſe to hinder all concorde.

And

And that haue they done principally (as they themselues confesse) for because we haue vrged the generall assembly of the Estates, which beyonde all memorie of man, hath alwayes ben vsed heretofore amongst our auncitours and Predecessours. Besides this, to make their malice more manifeste, they haue euer since committed greater cruelties in burning and scorchig such as were of our Religiō, than euer they did before. Moreouer, they haue sought to brig in all the rest of the Estates of our coūtry with threatnings & force, of purpose to make thē serue their turne towards the executiō of their tyrānical appetites. VVherby it appeareth most plainly, that they are not content with hauing once raised this great bloudy warre to the preiudice of his Maiestie, & vtter destructiō of his Country: but do still endeuour themselues to procede with their tyrānous deuises, to thend they may subdue the Countrie at their owne pleasure, and bring it into perpetuall seruitude & bondage. Moreouer wheras they make shew at some times, of a desire to entre into some treaty with vs of agreement: they do not pretend that to any other end, but onely to deceaue vs, and by such a fayned dissimulatiō, to hold the other Townes and

nes and Villages in some good hope, that the
may not ioyne themselues with vs to resist
their tirãny, hoping that by this meanes the
may come to their purpose, Like as they haue
already procured in Fraũce by their vndire
and priuie practises. But such is our trust in
bountifull mercy of our good God, by whõ we
haue bin so myraculously defended hithert
frõ their wicked enterprises, as wee not onel
hope to escape frõ the daunger of their diue
lish deuises, but also that all people & nation
of Christendome, all Kings & Potẽtates, an
especially the Maiesty imperiall with the E
lectours & Princes of the Empire, seing here
by most clerely our faithfull and sincere hum
lity, & our most sure and certaine equity, ioy
ned with our feruẽt desire to attaine to peac
and vnity, & cõparing the same with the di
dainful pride & cruell tirãny of our aduers
ries: will yeld vnto vs their indifferẽt fauour
and maintaine the iustice of oure cause by a
cõuenient meanes they may. And if per aduẽ
ture it fall out hereafter, that we be forced b
the vniust & vnreasonable procedings of ou
aduersaries, euẽ against our willes to seeke &
serch for som other relief more to our assurãc
& safety, thã we haue don heretofore: we hop
tha

hat euen then they will not impute the fault
hereof vnto vs, but vnto oure enemies, who
haue forced vs therunto. VVherof we require
ll and euery person by maner of protestation,
o be aduertised herein, that we only haue re-
ourse vnto the Iustice, equity, & wisedom of
he most high, and renowmed Maiesty of the
Emperour, & to all the most noble and excel-
ent Electours and Princes of the Empyre of
Almaigne, together with all the potentates of
Christẽdome, that they may take some care of
ur cause, & not giue credit or hearing vnto
he slanderous repōts of our aduersaries, but
cōsider somwhat neerer the indifferẽcy of our
ause & maintegne the same, so farre forth,
s duty to God & the world doth require. Al-
o wee do aduise all the Estates of these Lowe
Coũtries, to cōsider herein as it were in a glass
what estimaciō our enemies make of them, &
withall to imagine how they determine to hã-
dle them, if their deuises take such effecte as
hey do desire. VVherefore let them beware
hat for wãt of courage or other occasiō they
uffer not thẽselues to be abused by their fay-
ned and double dealinges, Althothey make
shewe of a feruente affection for the perfecte
peace & quietnes of oure Countrey. But
rather hauinge regarde vnto their tyranni-

call euill meaninges, which they beare in ge-
nerall vnto the Estates of our Country. Let
them resolue thēselues, courageously to resiste
such insolencies, and call to minde both their
othe and dutie that they owe to their Cōtry
and by all industrie seeke the maintenance o
the good and lawfull rights, contracts, and li-
berties of their foresaide country. In the do-
ing whereof, they shall not only do a good deed
in their life time, but also leaue vnto their
posterity a good report to their immortal glo-
ry. Now then to thende you may the bette
vnderstād the effect of the letters folowing, an
the ground of all the matter: You must be ad-
uertised, that at suche time as Mounsieur
Philip of Marnix, & Mounsieur of Mon
Saīt Aldegōdy, being prisoners at Vtrecht
had (by the licence and commaundement o
Mounsieur of Noircarmes) written diuer
& sondry times vnto the Prince of Oreng
as touchinge the meanes to enter into som
communication for finishing of these presen
warres: the matter was brought to such per-
fection, as that after the death of the forena-
med Seig. of Noircarmes, the persons were
nominated, which were to be imployed in thi
matter. But in the meane time happened the

ouerthrew of Mounſieur *the* Coũte Ludovvyk, *and for that cauſe it ſeemed not good vnto the great* Cõmaundador, *to proceede any further herein: alledging that thereby, the auctoritye of the King ſhoulde be ſomewhat dyminiſhed. Nenertheles the ſaid* Cõmaundador *wiſhed and aduiſed all the townes of* Holland *and* Zeland *to addreſſe them ſelues vnto the King by maner of ſupplicatiõ, to this end, that the effect of the agreement which mighte enſue thereof, mighte be attributed rather vnto the bountye, and liberalitye of the Kinge, than to any righte or equitye that we mighte looke for of dutye. This Kinde of dealing was cauſe ſufficient, why this treaty ceaſſed, vntill ſuche tyme as* Mounſieur de Champaigni *ſent a letter vnto* Mounſieur Charles de Boiſot *Gouernour of* Mydleburch, *the tenure whereof follweth hereafter word for word, with an anuſwere thereof made by his Brother* Mouſieur Lois de Boiſot, *being marked with. A. and. B. But vnderſtanding that he was abſent by reaſon that he was ſent of a meſſage into* England *from his excellency, he thought beſt, him ſelf to make a voyage vnto* Vtrecht, *whether it were to aſſiſt his brother in lawe* Mounſieur *the Coeute* de la Roche *towardes the obteynnig of a pardõ then*

publiſhed as him ſelf ſayd, or for ſome other pryuate affayres of his owne, I know not. But this I am ſure of, that when he cãme thither, he talked at lardge of the matters aforeſayd with Moũſieur de Sainct Aldegond who remayned then priſoner, as with one whõme he fownd yet ſtill ſo affected to the furtherance of our peace, as that he requeſted moſte earneſtly, that notwythſtanding the difficulty before reherſed, yet the purſute of a thinge ſo neceſſary for our publique weal might not be left of vpõ ſuche a foden. Herein he made promiſe on the behalf of the Prince of Orẽge and of the Eſtates of Holland and Zeland, that they would rather be cõtẽt to leeſe ſõme parte of their owne right, than ſeek to vſurpe any thing vpon the Kings Maieſtie, for the whichcauſe it was thought good to ymploy the forenamed priſoner, who preſently was ſent to Roterdã towards his excellency, to treat vpõ exchaunge of priſoners, to thend that ther with all he might woarke ſomme good effect in the matters before reherſed. Prouided alwayes that he tooke great regard to the auctority of the King, and that no poynts of religion weare in any wiſe mencioned. It hapned alſo that Signeor Ian de Mattenes, Moũ-

ſire

ſire de la Rinicre *and the* Aduocat Treſlõg *cãme a litle befor this, by ly cẽce alſo vnto* Rotterdã *for certẽ particuler affaires, as thei ſaid & had by & by cõmitted vnto them a ſpecial charge to deale with his excellẽcy, & with the foreſaid Eſtates, touching ſome good meane of pacification. The aunſwere that theis eſtates gaue vnto thẽ followeth hereafter, woord by woord, and is marked with the .C. But as it appeareth, this aunſuere pleaſed not* Moũſire de Chãpagni. *Wherefore during the abode of* Moũſiet de S. Aldegonde *as yet in* Rotterdã *he wrote a letter vnto him to the ſame effect, declaring therein his minde more at large This letter likewiſe followeth in order, and is marked with D. hereupõ yt followed that* Moũſiẽr de S. Aldegõd *treated yet ſõwhat further with the foreſayd Eſtates in ſuch erneſt ſorte, as that they weare cõtent to make their cõplaĩt vnto the Kings Ma. in forme of ſupplicatiõ with owt attributig the name of the Eſtats there vnto, which of duti belõged vnto thẽ, and alſo with owt making any mẽciõ of any point of religiõ, but only requeſting moſt hũbly that it wold pleaſe his Ma. to ſet order in al things by his owne auctherite and by the general aduice of the eſtates, but firſt that it would pleaſe*

him to cause all the straūgers which troubled the conutrye to auoyde from thence: submitting thē selues in all things besids to any suche order as his Maiistie, and the Estates generall shoulde thinck moste meete for them (as appeareth by ther requeste) which is marked with the letter .E. the which requeste the forenamed Mounsieur de S. Aldegond caried him self vnto Mounsieur de Champagini to Moūtsort, yelding him self agayne in to his prison at Vtrecht. But with in a while after, Moūsieur de Chāpagni hauing bene at the court in Bruxels, sent backe the foresayd requeste vnto Mounsieur Iunius Gouernour of the Vere, who together with Moūsieur de Carnes, had remayned in hostage at Mountfort for Mounsiur de S. Aldegond during his absence, and by that meanes also were admytted by Moūsieur de Champagni to treat of this matter, as may well appeare by a letter he sent to Mounsire Iuni⁹ which followeth likewise marked with .F. whereupon the sayd Iunius made him an aunswere by writing agayne, as appeareth with the markes of G. and H. We leaue the reste vnto the good reader to cōsider of, desyring God te geue vs the grace that all may redoūd vnto his glorye, and the

edifying

edifying of his Churche.

To Mounsire M. Charles Boisott, my very freend.

A.

Mounsire Boisot: the great league of amytie which hathe been betwene M. de Granuill and M. Threforier our fathers (whome God pardon) the frendeship of the Cardynall my brother, and myne owne goodwil towardes you, which still I obserue inuiolable with my Ladies your sisters, and with all the rest of your freēdes here, haue caused me oftētymes to be sorye for your absence, and greeued for your troubles. Now therefore sythence that his Maiestie at this present sheweth a great desier of the peace and tranquillitye of these lowe countries, and a great affection that all suche as haue absented them selues from his fauour, should returne agayne vnto his good grace (the which thing I assure you I haue both wished for long, and also procured to my power, in all tymes and places conuenient for that purpose:) and synce that I my self by the appoyntmēt of his excellency, am come vn

to

to Vtrecht of purpose to conferre with my Brother in lawe Mounsire' de la Roche, touching the bringing home againe of their loste sheepe: All theis things, and our old frendship considered, I thought good to write vnto you, to thẽd that throwgh your furtheraunce aunswering to my well meaning, we might endeuour owrselues to deliuer this poore cũntre from those great miseries, which we se embrase it on euery side: promising vnto you by the faith of an honest man and trw freed, to straine my self to the vttermoste of my power therein, and to procure for you (if you doe here any notable seruice towardes the bringing aganie of this people to the obedience of his Maiestie) not only a full restitucion of that which was yours, but also peraduẽture a good reward, and this dothe he willme to offer vnto you vpon so good a grownde, as (in myne opinion) neither you ought to refuse, nor the Townes which are reuolted frõ his seruice, to omytt. And if I had any meanes to conferre with you, I woulde not doubt, but wee two shoulde make so good an entrance into those matters, as that not only your self and those townes, but also a great many of others, should finde better fruit thereof, then yone would thinck

thinck for. I haue fownde bothe better acceſſe and credite then I can tell you by writing, and alſo a ſinguler bownty in the Gouernour that now is, at all tymes when any ſpeache hapneth betwene him and me touching the appeaſing of thoſe callamities, vnto the which I pray you to geue eare, and to accompany my zeale with yours: which if you doe, I doubt not but (by the grace of God) we ſhall worke a great good turne vnto this cõmon weale. M. Boiſott I recommend my ſelf hartely vnto you and commyt you to God, whome I pray, to ſende vnto you your harts deſyre, and vnto vs all a good end of all our afflictions. From Cantecroi this. 14. of Iune. 1574.

Entirely your beſt frende
I. Perrenot.

To Mounſire M. Perrenot
my very frende.

B.

Mounſire de Champagni your letters of the date of the. 14. of this mõneth which you ſent to my brother, are hapned to my hãdes, which in his abſẽce I haue opened and red,

red, reioysing very muche to find therein th
desier that his Maiestie hathe now of the qu
etnes of his coũtry, and that he would haue hi
subiectes return againe into his good fauour
which you say, that bothe he hath wished fo
lõg synce, and your self haue procured to th'u
tmoste of your power. Whereas you desier to se
my brother applye him self (if it weare possi
ble) to the ioyning with you in zeale towarde
the helping of his poore countrye out of those
myseries, that on euery syde compasse it a
bout, promysing your aid and endeuour vnde
the othe of a syncere honeste man and tre
frẽde, and that his Maiestie dooth offer him no
only a restitution of his owne, but also a goo
rewarde, which courtesie, neyther he shall do
well in refusing, neyther the reuolted Townes
in reiecting: And whereas, you wishe for hi
person to conferre withall, assuring him of th
good hope you haue in the singuler bonntye o
this new gouernour: To all theis thinges my
brother (if he were present) myght make a
unsuere at large, with the consent of the
Prince of Orenge. But forasmuche he is ab
sent, I wil say no more, but that this zeale o
his Maiestie, in desyring the peace and quye
tnes of his subiectes, is a noble and worthi

minde,

ſuche a Criſtian prynce as he is, and that no man wolde be gladder nor better content therewith than the Prince him ſelf, as at your comming to Vtrecht your ſelf ſhal very well perceiue and vnderſtand by yowr brother in lawe the Conte de la Roche, whoe knoweth very well what hath already paſſed frō him in communication hereof and alſo by letters written in that behalf. But this dare I ſay of myne owne hed, that in my ſimple iudgement there is no meanes to appeaſe theis troubles, but only by drawing of theis ſtraungers owt of owr countrye. For they are ſuche a kinde of people, as bothe by heareſay in tymes paſt, and by proofes in tymes preſent we finde to be no men of their worde, nor ſuche whoſe promiſes any man may truſt. For alwaies they finde ſomme bypathes to eſcape by, following therin the manner of the coūſell of Conſtans wherof they pratle daily. Wherupon, I may conclude, that at their handes there can be no aſſuraunce looked for, ſo longe as they remayne in the countrye. I did ſend your letters vnto his Excel. to thend he might bothe ſee and know the great deſire you ſay you haue of the wellfare of owr countrie, requeſting you M. Chapuys to cōtinew that

good zeale that you pretend to beare to our quyet. Prayng God to geue, vnto you the cõtentmẽt of your mynde, and vnto vs an easement of our afflictions. From Mydleburche this 17 of Iune. 1574.

Entyrely your good frend,
Lois de Boisot.

The aunswere of the Estates to the Questions propounded.

D.

AS towching that which hathe ben propoũded vnto the Estates of Holland & Zeland, concerning the troubles of this present warres, & how to bring the same to a good & sure passe, for the rest & quyetnes of the coũtrie, & the saffety of his Maiesties subiectes: Theis Estates doe openly declare that they weare neuer of opinion, nor be at this present, of taking any weapons in hand, in any cause that might be preiudicial against his Maiestie, his countrye, or prouinces: but that they in acquitall of their bownden dutie and chardge, with intent to cõserue the reputacio

& highnes of their seignories & Lordeships, together with their Priuileges, othes, rightes, worthy customes, and liberties of their countri, and subiectes, haue been constrayned to withstand by mayne force, the harde Gouernment, tyrannie, & violence of the duke of Alua, and of the straungers his adherentes, who by vn accustomed exactions and oppressions of the poore subiectes, haue troubled owr comon welth, not seeking for any thing els, than by their Insolencie to make them selues Masters of his Maiesties country & subiectes: and by that meanes to bring them into perpetual bõdage, to the great preiudice bothe of his seruice & of their maintenaũce, as the fore said Estates haue heretofore declared and protested, in suche sorte that they wil not at this present make any articles of pacificatiõ with his Maiestie, whome they haue allwaies heretofore sought to obay and serue in all humilitye as their liege Lorde and Prince: but like humble suters, they request that yt wil please his Maiestie, like a good father to haue regard vnto the pouerties & afflicions of theis his lowe coũtries, with a mercifulleye, to thẽd that they may bee brought againe to vnitie, quiett, and libertye, to traffique as they were

wont to doe. The which, will bothe aduaunce the dignitie of him self, & encrease the prosperitye of his subiectes. And certenly this cannot be brought to passe: so longe as theis straungers shalbe suffred to exercise their force, and tirannie, whose gaine and profite dothe more consist vpon troubles and disordres, than in any good gouernment of the countrie. For they be suche persons, as naturally are moste studious of their owne particuler profite. Loe here the speciall cause and motion of this warre. Wherfore it may please his Maiestie: to cause theis straungers to retyre them selues, and afterward by a franke communication together with the aduice of the generall estates of the countrie, duli assembled, to set so good order, pollecy, and gouernment amongst vs, as that the Subiectes of his Maieste may from henceforth assure them selues from all perills and inconueniences that may happen vnto them. And forasmuche as (if we may speake franckly) nought els can be looked for, by the continuewance of this warre, but only a dispeopling, a solitarynes, and an vtter Ruyne of all his Maieshes countries in theis partes, specially for

becauſe that the more thinhabitantes ther-
of doe geue themſelues daylie to thexerciſe
of Armes, cleane forgettinge and laying
aſide their woonted traffique and trade of
merchaundize: the leſſe good is to bee looked
for at their hande (For wee ſe ordinarelt to
what lycentious lyues and liberties, ſoldi-
ers are commonlye inclyned). By meane
whereof it is to be feared, leaſt there will
happen a moſte domageable and daungerous
diminiſhing of all kinde of traffique and mer-
chaundize, bothe by ſea and land, redown-
ding to the vtter ſhaking of his Maieſties
eſtates, or the ſlipping aſide of his ſeruice:)
The ſaid Eſtates doe humbly requeſt, that
better regarde bee had here vnto, ſo as bothe
Holland, *and* Zeland *and alſo their pro-*
uinces and cantries adioyning, being by au-
thoritye of his Maieſtie in all partes diſ-
chardged from the tronbleſome multitude of
ſoldiars and ſtraungers: all maner of prepa-
racion and prouicion made for warres may
preſently ſurceaſſe, and haue end on all ſides,
in ſuche ſort as the naturall inhabitants of the
countries may once againe be ſetled in ſome
ſurety, & the one being reconciled to thother,
may with free libertye talke and traffique

together. This ſuite being obteined, the ſaid Eſtates doe promiſe on their partes to performe in all pointes the Duties of good and faithfull Subiectes, hoping that the letters, of the great Cõmaũdador, and all other faithful vaſſalles and ſeruaunts to his Maieſtie, will herein put to their helping hand, the which we doe requeſt and pray with all reuerence, and humility.

To Mounſire' M. de Sainct Aldegondi.

D.

MOunſiere de Mont S. Aldegonde we marueil not a litle, that all this while we haue not herd any thing from you. Yeſterday there arriued here M. de la Rinicre, & the Aduocate Treslonge: whoe vnder the preteuce of ſomme priuate affaires went to Rotterdam, where they did aſſay certein meanes touching the appeaſing of theis preſent troubles, following therein no more thã I permitted them to doe. But vpon certain queſtions propownded of them of that ſide vnto M. de Rinicre, they grew into farther talke of the matter at their owne pleaſure, being moued there vnto

vnto (as I ghesse) by a feruent zeale they had to doe their countrie good. But the returne of their answere groweth nothing nere to any quyetnes. Wherefore you can not make me beleeue that you desier to haue peace, to the obteyning whereof you promised me faythfully to ymploy your self. For neither can the title that they take vpon them, as appeareth by that writing which was broughte vnto me, bee so vsurped by them: neither eā those reasons which they alledge for their reuolting, be admitted by any means, for that they touch to nere the reputacio of his Maiestie, although they say they woulde mainteigne the same, wherein I finde no reason. And as touching the meanes that they make, they are not accompanied with such respectes as I hoped for. It seemeth by their speaches and writing, that the townes reuolted from the obedience of his Maiestie, doe neuertheles behaue thē selues like good subiectes to their prynce and Soueraigne. Wherefore you muste bringe somme other newes to that affect, that you & I tauked of, or otherwise I feare, that we shall doe no good in this matter. I know very well your capacitye to bee sufficient to perswade any reasonable matter. I know likewise what

youe are able too doe (if youe list to ymploy your self,) considering what credit you be of with all thē of that side. Remēber your promis: by following the which, you may chaūce to cōmit to that which I assured you of. For my parte I will procure you all the meanes I may, to thend that all thinges may end well. Thus leauing for this tyme I pray vnto God, to geue vnto you a long and happy lief with helth frō Montfort *this 21, of Iuly. 1574.*

Entirely your very good frende
I. Perrenot.

M. de Carmes *and* M. Iunius *be in helthe*

A Supplication to the Kinge

E.

In most humble wyse doo all the Knightes and Townes of Holland *and* Zeland, *protest that at all times and places they haue yelded bothe vnto your Maiestie, and to your Predecessours all humble obedience,*

to, reuerence and ſeruice, whenſoeuer it hath him required for the maintenaunce of the greatnes, glory and Maieſty of your highnes, as became good, and faithful vaſſals and ſubiectis to doo: in reſpect whereof they nothing doubte him that your Maieſties affection is nocreaſed thereby, the rather to conſerue & mayntaine thē in all their rights and liberties, with all quietnes and tranquillity, vnder ſounde Iuſtice and good pollicy. Nowwhere as the Duke of Alua being then Gouernour for your Maieſtie ought by good reaſon to haue ſhewed himſelfe conformable to all things before ſayd: Yet hath he cleane contrarie vnder the title of his gouernement committed ſuch iniuries and violences vppon your countries and ſubiectes, as well ſpirituall as temporall, as well noble as not noble; as that your poore ſubiectes for the preſeruinge and keepinge of their priuiledges, rightes, auntiente cuſtomes, and allowed liberties, haue bin forced againſte theyr will to withſtande with force and armes, the prounde and violente kinde of gouernmente of the ſaid Duke of Alua, and his adherentes and ſtraungers. Who haue ſoughte by all

Now

by all meanes to hinder the quietnes of your common weale, by rayſing vp pernicious newelties, vnwonted exactions, and generall oppreſſion of your Maieſties ſubiectes. We ſee they ſhoote at noone other marke, but onely to ſubdue the inhabitants of your Coũtry to their appetits, and inſolencies, onely to impouriſhe them, and bring them to bondage to the great hinderaunce of your Maieſties ſeruice, dignitie, and dominion. Whereof your ſaide oratours haue already moſte openly made ſuite and proteſtaciõ, aſwell as other eſtates and prouinces haue oftẽ ſued for the ſame reſpect. This notwithſtãding, the ſaid Duke of Alua perſiſteth and continueth ſtill in his wicked determinacion, whereby not onely the forenamed Coũtries of your Maieſties, and the inhabitours thereof are brought into great alteracions, calamities & troubles of warre: but alſo the kingdomes, countries and nacions adioyning, haue conceiued a maruelous hatred & horrour of the diſdainefull pride of theſe ſtraungers and ill willers, enemies to the cõmon quiet, for that by them they finde both loſſe, and laying aſide of all traffique and handicrafts, of all marchauntes trade, and proſperitie.

Now

Nowe therefore, seing that your poore Oratours haue not hitherto sought, neither do at this present seeke for any other thing, than to procure asmuch as they may, thadnauncemente of their Countrycause, for the better seruice of your Maiestie, as becommeth loyall subiects to do: They most hũbly request with all reuerence, that it would please your Maiestie like a most gentle father, to behold & loke vppon the miserable and pitifull Estate presente of these Lowe Countryes, and to set them againe in some good vnity, trade, and tranquillity. Whereby both the greatnes of your Maiestie may marueilously encrease, and also the prosperity of oure countrymen grow and florish in your seruice. And surely this cãnot be brought to passe, so long as these straungers shalbe suffred to vse, and exercise their tyrannical gouernment, in our countrye. Considering, that all their gaines, and cõmoditie, consisteth more in disquietnes & confusion, than in any good order or rule. And surely by daily experience wee finde, that they by nature are rather giuen to their owne gredie gaine and appetites, than to seeke for any good to these Countryes, where they be but mere straungers. And this is th'occasion of

our

our troubles and presente warre. May it therefore please your Maiestie, to cause these straūgers to be drawen away from hence, and by fre communication and aduise of the naturel Estates of this Country being generally and lawfully called together, to set and establish some such good order pollicie and rule, as the saide Countries and subiectes of your Maiesties, may from hence forth be the better maintenied in one vnity and assured trāquilitie, and voyde of all troubles and incōueniences that are to come hereafter. Moreouer, considering that at the length by the cōtinuance of these present warres, nought els can be hoped for, than the pillinge, dissolution and vtter destruction of your Maiesties Countryes on euery side: and so much the rather, for that we see thinhabitaunts therof to giue themselues euery day more and more vnto th'exercise and feates of armes, forgetting quite, and laying aside their wonted trafique and trade of Marchaundize: And sure it is, that men by nature are most commōly enclined to all kinde of licentious libertie that warre bringeth with it, in such sort, that by longe vse, and practize of the broyles in warre, such rigour and hatred will encrease

daily

daily amõge your Maiest. subiects one agaĩst another, as that it is to be feared, least all trades, trafiques, Marchaundizes and saylinges will be cleane left of, to the great hinderance of your Maiesties seruice: The saide suitours do most humbly craue, that it will please your Maiestie to haue regard thereunto with all clemency: so much the rather, for that all other prouinces and Countries adioyning, & bordering, being by your Maiesties auctority discharged from the cambersome multitude of all straung souldiars, may presently by your good prouision, lay aside all armes, & surcesse from all enmitie, so as the meeting and cõuersatiõs of this country may be restored againe with all surety: And that being reconciled th'one to thother, they may enioy with quietnes their auncient possessions, & patrimonies, by the obtayning whereof, the saide Oratours will not faile to performe on their partes all the duties of good and faithfull subiectes to your Maiestie &c.

To Mounsire M. Iunius Atauere.

M. Iunius *I did not a whit miscaste my accompte, when as at oure laste beinge together*

together in the presence of your self, and M. de Carmes, *I did declare vnto* Monsire de Monte Saint Aldegonde, *that I feared greatly lest the writing which he brought frō* Rotterdam *would find but litle fauour in the Court. For from the time that I first arriued there vntill this houre, hauing tried in euery corner how it might be taken, I finde that the opinions of all men here do so farre differ frō the desiers of all mē there, as I dare not deale any further therein: and therefore I thought it best, to sende you this letter together with the selfesame request, that* M. de Mont S. Aldegond *brought vnto me annexed thereunto, to whom I would not write, for that he may receiue no papers without perusing, neyther could I write into your quarters, but by the same cōdicions. As I haue declared vnto you before this time: so do I thincke at this present, that som other forme of writing had bin more fit for all parts. For albeit that that which he brought was in the maner of a supplication, (as in deede all subiects ought to do towards their Prices:) Yet this which they of* Holland & Zeland *haue offred, is to farre besides the qualitie that should be loked for in that respect. For first & formost they would*

that

that the king should disarme himself, & that he should not be serued, but with such as they like: not considering at all, that it lyeth in his power both to take or leaue armes, when hee himself listeth. Who knoweth what is conuenient for his subiects, and his affaires, better then himself? or who can tell better then he, what kinde of people will serue his turne best for the profit and commoditie of the same? Whereas in deede, it is not permitted to subiectes, no not in a good cause, to take armes but by the appointment of their Lord, neither to call in any straungers as those of Holland and Zelande haue done: therefore their faulte is so much the more greuous, & inexcusable, in taking theym vppe against their Prince, or against his officers which is al one, since that they be ordained by him to represent his person, & to occupie his place, because he himselfe cannot be in all places at once. But forasmuch as they haue offended already by entering into armes of their owne priuate auctoritie, and by taking the kinges Townes, wherof, or of the restitutiō wherof they make no mention at all: in very deede, in steede of their demaunding of that thinge at his Maiesties hand, which they of your side ought to per-

performe if reason mighte take place: they should trust to the clemency of their Prince, and referre themselues wholly thereunto. On thother side, it seemeth also very straung, that subiects, wil seeme to inforce their Prince to follow their appetite in assembling of Estates, yea and that generally amongst a sorte of Seignories, which in degrees, iurisdictions, & customes haue nothing in common, but onely neighbourhode th'one with thother. In deede they haue one Lord who oftētimes hath giuē them leaue to talk at their pleasure for their owne benefite, about their affaires, not meaning that this his bounty shoulde bee wrested vnto any preiudice against himselfe: for it seemeth certaine by the request of this assemblie, that they woulde make lawes, and keepe him as Warde. Of all other pointes which I passe vnder silence, (whereof neuerthelesse I haue oft giuen my verdite, that his Maiesty may not in any point yeld vnto) I will reherse no more at this present. Of all those matters, I talked at lardge with Mon. de Monte S. Aldegonde. Neuertheles the great desire that I had to do some good as touchinge the quietnes of this Countrie, if God woulde permitte, and his earnest requiringe that

I would

I woulde not lightly leaue off from this enterprise, haue made me to do the best that I can, although I dispaired of any good issue before I began. Surely I am sory, besides the generall cause, euen in particuler, for such as I thought very well of. And for the friendship that I haue borne vnto the house of Mon. de Monte Saint Aldegond, I would haue wished that he had concluded somewhat more touching the affaires of Mons. le Count de Bossu. For after that report was made here, of the aunswere that was made touching that matter, by M the Prince of Orenge vnto M. de Monte S. Aldegonde: it was determined here, that vppon my comming it should proceede no further, since that the good Seignior de Bossu is neuer a whit the better. I haue thoughte it good to make this rehersall vnto you of all that is paste since I retourned from Mountforde, partly to let you vnderstande of my foreward good will, and partly to aduertise you to seeke other meanes that were more expediente for the pacification of these your calamities. And thus I leaue, prayinge to God M. Iunius that he graunte you that which is for your health. From

Anwerpe *this xviij. of Auguſt. 1574.*

Your frend to his power,

John Perrenot.

¶ To Monſire my Lord the Barō of Renare of Aſpremont, Seigniour of S. Loup, and of Champagny. Gouernour of the Citie of Anwerpe.

SIr *I haue receiued not iōg ſince your Lordſhips letter, dated the xiiij. of Auguſt, together with the requeſt of the Eſtates, and townes of* Holland *and* Zeland, *which* Mōſire de Monte S. Aldegonde *brought vnto you at* Mountford, *all the which I deliuered preſently into their handes. I found that they marueyled greatelye, & were perſwaded that the reaſōs alledged within your letter were in no pointe ſufficient, to reiect and ſend back their foreſaid requeſt after ſuch a ſort, the which peraduenture might very well haue ſerued to haue done ſome greate good. Wherefore, ſeinge themſelues to be ſo handled*

dled, not like subiectes or vassals of the king, as they haue alwayes shewed themselues, especially where there hath bin any question of the honour, preheminence, and greatnes of his Maiestie, but rather like to the greatest Infidels, Turkes or Iewes that liue in the worlde: yea and like enemies sworne againste his Maiestie: they haue hereuppon cõcluded, that they are not hereafter to hope for any good at their hãds, who seeke by such meanes to abuse the name of the K. to their vtter ruine, and confusion. And therefore they haue agreed by Counsell, and determined amongest themselues, to imploye their whole power, to seeke oute other meanes, by which they maye better prouide for their surety hereafter, againste that so barbarous iniquitie and tyrannie of those, whoe coner their owne priuate passions, wyth the cloake and collour of the name of the Royall Maiestie: Protestinge, that since of themselues they haue no accesse to the eares of his Maiestie, and are likewyse forestalled from that meanes, which both by God and mans lawes hath bin euer graunted to the vilest fellons, traytours, & disloyal rebels,

that either are, or euer were in the worlde: surely they seele themselues to bee forced by such excessiue wickednes, and tirãny to seeke for such meanes as shall please their good God to put into their handes. Desiring you that you wilbe a witnes to all the worlde, how that they haue presented the foresaid request, and thereby haue satisfyed some part of their dutie: And so maye you moste truly excuse and iustifie them, if any question do arise hereof. And to thend that your Lordship may know the grounde and cause of their complainte, and wherefore they thincke themselues so extremely iniured by the sendinge backe of their foresaid request: I haue thought good to gather together in forme of discourse, the principall Articles of all their cõplaint vpon your last letters, the which I mẽt to haue sent you before this time, but that I wayted for your mans comming to me for my aunsweare to yours, whoe beinge come receiued his dispatche without any long staying. Desiring you, wel to consider and thinck of the reasons and groundes alledged by them vppon your said letter. I haue annexed them hereunto: but so neuertheles, as that this my writinge maye in no pointe be preiudiciall to the saide Estates,

Estates, and Townes, or to their resolution. For my zeale is good, for the quiet of the cõutry, & my affectiõ great to do your Lordship seruice. Well, I will remit my selfe vnto the discourse, wherof I pray you excuse the lẽgth, and impute the fault therof either to my vnabilitie, or els to the difficulty of th' affayres that are treated of therein. Thus recommending my selfe most humbly &c.

He that would be glad to take away the stoppe that hindereth me frõ doinge agreable seruice to your Lordship.

I. Iunius de lenghe

DISCOVRSE.

H

SIR, *first men may thinck it straunge, that the opinions of your Court in generall haue bin so farre alienated from those agreements which our men did most desire, that (as your letter mencioneth) you durste not once open your mouth any further touching that matter. For it is altogether vnlikely that you whõ I haue accompted alwayes, and do accompte to be a noble gentleman, desirous both of the*

preſeruatiõ of his Maieſtie, and of the quiet, and tranquillitie of the common weale: haue withdrawen your ſelf from a buſines ſo much importing the ſeruice of the king, and the generall quiet and ſafety of the whole country: vppon the opinion of certaine priuate men, and of ſmall countenaunce in the Court. For therein you ſhould not onely do wrong to that noble minde, and valiaunte courage which I haue alwayes ſeene in you: but alſo it might be a diſcredite to the greate duty, and truſte you owe to his Maieſtie. Wherefore, I ſaye that their opinions of whom you ſpake, haue proceeded from certaine of the priuie Councell in theſe eſtates, vpõ whom the king hath repoſed his chiefeſt confidence, touchinge the gouernment and rule of theſe Coũtryes. The which Councellours, are ſworne to reueale & make knowen euery thing, which in their cõſciences may any way bee preiudiciall to the kinges highnes, or commoditye. They make vs thinck aſſuredly, that you haue not conferred at all with thẽ of any ſuch matter: for if they had receiued any incklinge at all thereof, of neceſſity it muſte haue come to the kinges eares, or at the leaſt to their eares who had full power and auctoritie to deale therein. Wee

cannot

cannot comprehend nor imagine what should so much coole your courage, and make you afearde to preferre openly our requeſte, the which of neceſſitie (as you know) muſt come to their vnderſtanding. And the rather, becauſe that with you they doe altogether condempne and miſlike the doinges of certaine confederate gentlemen, who preferred the like ſuite vnto Madame de Parma, in the yeare 1566. eſpecially, becauſe that they did not rather vſe a meane more ordinary, either by ſome of the Eſtates, or els by ſome one principall man in the Courte, who in their names might haue exhibited their ſupplication, and not to haue aduaunced themſelues ſo boldly, and in ſuch maner, as they did. Notwithſtandinge, by this your example you ſeeme to allow, and iuſtifie them. For you ſay, that if the Courte cannot digeſte a ſupplication or ſuite, it is great folly for any one man, thoughe of auctoritie (as your ſelfe is) to take vppon him, the preferringe vppe of anye ſuche matter, but rather by ſendinge it backe againe to incurre all daungers, which maye happen for wante of exhibitinge the ſame in conuenient time. But whereas you ſaye, that you haue not broken the

matter to any ma, but onely groped their mindes a farre of: surely it seemeth to be nothig answerable to that professed zeale, and great affection you haue alwayes seemed to beare vnto the Mai, of the king, & good of his countrie. The which in my iudgemente, seemeth most manifest, in that you were aferd to present a requeste so expedient both for the king and his countrie. Wherfore, if the euent of thinges hereafter shall happen to frustrate & deceiue their opinions whose minds you haue but groped a farre of: assure yourselfe it is impossible for you to eschew some exceedinge greate blame, in that you reiected and sente backe without any occasion, a requeste of such importaunce. For thoughe you ment not to follow the matter your selfe, yet mought you haue vttered it openly, excepte by your owne auctoritie you woulde seeme to deprive both King and countrie of so necessary a meanes, as to haue consulted and determined, concerning the pointes of a generall pacificatiō. Moreouer, if those Courtiers in auctoritie and of the priuie counsell haue seene the foresaid requeste, and would not make the Kinge acquainted herewith: yet should they at the least either haue published that selfe same

thing,

thing, which they wolde not communicate, or els haue geuen ſomme good aduice & counſaill vnto vs, withowt vſurping after that ſorte their auctoritie, in a matter that ſo particularly did touche the Kings owne perſon. For if you reſpect but the atheonly (whereby his Maieſtie was ſollemly ſworne (& there vpon admytted in to this countrie) neuer to refuſe, or reiect any Bill, or ſupplicacio whatſoeuer, of any of his Subiectes, howe meane ſoeuer, and muche leſſe of corporacions and whole Prouinces: Surely you nyghte haue ſhowed a ſinguler care and earneſt deſyer for the perfourmaunce of the ſame. Moreouer, yt is altogether diſagreeing from the lawe of nature, (the which worketh effect in all people and nations) that a Prince (to whom the people haue committed their forces to thend they may be gouerned by iuſtice and equitye, and haue their cauſes harde) ſhould reiect them withowt making any care or coũtenance to vnderſtand them. This did Adrian the Emperour know very well, being a Pagan and one that knew not God: who, hauing a ſupplicacion preſented him in the ſtreetes by a poore woman, aunſwered that he had not conuenient time to looke vpon ſuche

ſmall

ſmall matters: but ſhe nothing diſmayed, replyed, that if he had not leyſure to peruſe the particuler requeſtes of his poore ſubiectes, he ſhould haue farre leſſe leyſuer to rule & commaunde: her reaſon was becauſe yt was the duty of a King to dooe Iuſtice. With which aunſwere he feeling him ſelf touched to the quick, forth with acknowledged his fault, and afterwards peruſing her requeſt, gaue her preſently her righte. By theis we are to learne in how great faulte they ar, which make the King culpable bothe before God and the worlde, in taking away from him the meanes to heare and vnderſtand the requeſtes of his ſubiectes, yea & of his townes and whole Prouinces. The which is not only diſagreeing from the naturall care of Princes to their Subiectes: but alſo againſt the profeſſion of a Chriſtian, yea and cõtrary to the particuler othe which heis ſworne vnto. And ſure in theis reſpects our Prince is more heauely charged, and hathe more to aunſwere for, than had that Emperour Adrian. But ſince you alledge ſome apparaunce of reaſons, whereby it ſemeth we ought many wiſe to cõmit the Iudgmẽt of this Preſent quarel to the arbitriment of the Prince: I beſeeche you conſider of what force

foree your perſwaſions may bee with them of Holland *and* Zeland. *Marke whether they cã be made to beleeue the contrarye, but that by theis meanes they haue been moſte yniuriouſlye dealt withal, and the Maieſtie of their Prince the King of* Spaine *and* Coũte *of* Holland, *moſte extremely abuſed and ſet at nought.*

You ſay, they vvould that the King ſhoudle diſarme him ſelf. *Surely if it weare ſoe: Yet might they aunſwere, that ſo long as the King did holde the ſwor de in his hand, redy to murther them at his pleaſure, yt were great folly, (but more daunger) for them to humble them ſelues, and to ſhew that dutye which ought to be in ſubiectes to their Prince. For what could miniſter a greater likelyhod to haue all their throtes to be cutt by creditt, than this? For if he bee not armed againſt them, they will neuer wiſhe him to laye aſyde his weapens. And contrarywiſe, if hee bee, it followeth that hee becommeth, not as their King (that is to ſay, as their father and paſtour,) but (which is more proper for him) their vtter enemye and deſtroyer.*

But

But God forbid, that those good Subiectes of Holland & Zeland which haue alwaies borne an especiall dutie and honour to their prince, & likewise haue fownde in him a singuler kinde of clemencie towardes them, shoulde bee constrained to thinck that their king is in armes against them, and so bent to their ruine and destruction, as that he will not giue eare or harken to their complaintes. Nay, they cõplayne rather that certen straũgers, suche as are not knowen to the King, neither allied by blood nor affinitie, nor that once can cary good meaning to theis low countries, are cõme in the Kings name, armed at all pointes to exercise barbarous and Turkish Tyrannies of their owne auctthorities: nothing esteming the solemne othe & firme composicion which the King had made, but haue brought in with thẽ a new world, aswell contrarye to the auncient pollecie & custome of lawes & priuileges, As also against the auctoritye of the Kings Maiestratie and officers, whom they pray with all humilitie, that yt woolde please him by his auctthoritye, to cause them to lay aside their weapons, and to retire thẽ selues, leauing the country to that gouernment which was vsed before tyme, of

long

long cõtynewaunce, by the predicessours of the Kings Maiestie: of glorious memorye. The whiche if it were brought to passe, there shoulde be no subiectes more dutifull, none more redy to acknowledge the auctoritie of the Prince ouer them, nor none more ioifull to accõpliſhe what ſoeuer ſhoulde be commaunded them. And I pray you, how coulde you lay (I will not ſay any foundaciõ of peace) but only ſome fained apparaunce of an agreement, except that theis as ringleaders doe firſt geue vp their weapens and get them packing owt of this cõtrie? vnleſſe you thinck that the meanes to attaine to peace, do the conſiſt in ſetting ſtraungers (yea & ſtraungers of ſuch cõditio) in poſſeſſiõ of the Subiectes goods (moueables, & ymmoueables,) & to let the vyolate their wyues and children: and that for a full end of ſuch their benifites and fauours, the ſubiects mighte doe well to interteine & cheriſh them to cut all their throtes, ſo as they might at once plead full poſſeſſion, and the King be ryd of his trew ſubiectes.

But you ſay, that they demaunde that the Kinge ſhoulde not be ſerued of any, but of ſuche as they themſelues vvoulde appoint him. *It ſhall neuer bee founde, that euer they did ſo muche as*

yma-

ymagine, that the Ki. might not make warre against his enemies, whosoeuer or of what cõdition soeuer they weare, with suche and so many as he thought good, and that they be not so euill aduised as to prescribe any lawes to his Ma. especially in a thing so vnreasonable. But they hũbly beseeche his Ma. that Straũgers be not lycensed, (only vpõ priuate quarrels) to make warre against the countrie, and townes of the King & his subiectes: And that Spaniardes, Italias, Swissers, & an infinite number of others, might not deuide amõge thẽ the booties, and spoiles gotten within his Ma. dominions, or at least that their goodes, their wyues, and children, be not made praies nor subiectes to the thraldomme of so barbarous, and vnknowen people in their partes. The which suyte, can not be construed anywaies that the King shold altogether lay a side weapens. For if at any tyme his Ma. woulde make warres in theis partes or in any other, he might be hable to leauy as great an army of Hollãd & Zeland & theis Countries on horse backe or on foote, by sea or by lande, as easely should be hable to resist, or rather ouercõme his greatest enemyes, as yt hathe been apparẽtly seene by the Predecessours of the Kings Maiestie

the

he dukes of Burgõdy, *& Lordes of this coũ rie. Whoe whẽ they had no ſtrañgers neither* Spãiardes, *nor* Italiãs, *yet weare neuer deſtitute of ſuche ſouldiars, as were ſufficiẽt for the defẽce of their coũtrie. But on thother ſide Duke* Charles *the hardy, as long as he did put his truſt & cõfidence in theis coũtrieuen & thinhabitantes of theis partes, & gaue no entertainmẽt to any but* Burgoniõs & VValons: *he proſpered allwayes & had the victores, in ſo muche as he was feared of all his neighbours. But after he begane to gene credit to ſtraungers, & woulde be ſerued of* Italiãs, *& ſuch like which were vnder the charge of one called* Campobaſſo, *the caſe was altered anon after. For by the treaſon of this foreſaid* Cãpobaſſo (*corrupted either by money, or by ſom other meanes*) *the Duke hauing receiued the woorſe at two battailes, at the third being before* Nancy *loſt bothe his lief, & al the honor which his faithful Subiectes of thoſe coũtries had gottẽ before. Not withſtanding if it be not lawfull to intreat the King not too bee ſerued in theis warres of any but theis coũtrymen his Subiectes: Why then haue the Eſtates generally deſired the ſame of the* Commandador *at* Bruxels? *or why hathe their ſute ben accepted, ſynce yt bare all*

one

one show of Rebellio against the King? For a
concerning this, where you say, it is lawfull
for the King to be at warres or at peace with
whome or when he listeth: Surely you accuse
in this the Auncestours of his Maiestie, who
haue alwayes vowed and sworn to the estates, not to make warre or to take any quarrell
in hand, without their cõsentes. A thing which
hath been obserued amongest Princes synce
the worlde was a worlde, and by all suche as
wouldenot publikely be esteemed as Tyrans.
For seeing that not only the expences of the
warre, but also all thinconueniences, damages, and mischaunces of the same do fall principally vppon the neckes of the people: surely
both naturall reason, & equity requyres, that
some in their behalfe (as the Maiestrate in
some place, in other places the Estates, in other places the Counsailes, assistets & Parliaments of Princes) should be admitted to speake
& sit in counsaile for their behoofe. Except they
had rather follow Xerxes: who after he had
assembled his Counsaile of Estates, and all the
Princes and Maiestrates of Persia concerning the warres he toke in hand against the
Grecians: protested to them, that the chiefest
and onely cause why he sent for them, was not

to

to thend they ſhould geue him any aduice, or counſell: but that they might heare and allow of his deuice and enterpriſe which he had already determyned and reſolued on. Where vpon, he was not only accompted a Tyrant, but fell into moſte opprobrious and deteſtable infamye, which continewed, to the loſſe all moſte of all his dominion. But for all this, here is nothing ſpoken to appoint the King what warres, or with whome he ſhoulde wage the. For let him but only ſay the woorde, when or with whome, and he ſhall fynde bothe Hollanders & Zelanders in ſuche redynes, as if the druſ do but ſounde, their bodies & their goodes ſhalbe ſufficient pledges to ſhew their willing myndes, & trew hartes they beare to their Prince, the which their predeceſſours before them haue allwayes ſhowed to the King, & his anncеſtors. But here is warre made againſt the Kings owne countries, to ouerrunne the prouinces of his owne demaynes, to pil, to ſack to put to Ruin and deſtruction, his owne Subiectes. And to be ſhorte, he maketh warre againſt him ſelf. A Prince without his Subiectes is no Pince. Wherefore I meruaile you doe ſo muche miſlike that theis poor moleſted people ſhulde humbly beſeache his Maieſtie,

that by his auctheritye aud commaundemēt, this warre so hurtfull to them, so vnprofitable to the King, so deteſtable before God, and so to be lamēted and pitied of all honeſt mindes, might ceaſſe. You ſay the King knowes vvhat his ſubiectes haue neede of. *Would you by this maintayn that it is conueniente that the Kings Subiectes ſhoulde be robbed, vndoone, and murdred by ſtraungers, their howſes burnt, their townes ſpoilled, their feelds waſted, their inheritaūces decated, their wyues & daughters deflowred, and their childrē led vnder the ſeruitude of Straūgers? The which if it bee conuenyent and neceſſarye for the Kings Subiectes: ſurely it were better for thē to be vnder the protection of the moſte cruelleſt Tiraunt that euer reigned. Except (as in deed yt appeareth) the King hath not ſoe commaunded, ſynce he vnderſtandes ſo well what is moſte conuenyent for his Subiectes. Therefore haue they great reaſon, withall humillity to referre them ſelues to his moſte gracious order, commaunding all forreigners to gett them packing owt of the countrie. But if you ſay the woorſt you can, and think to cut all their throotes by a worde ſpeaking, in ſaying theis men are rebels to the King, &*

there

therefore cannot be accõpted as his subiectes. Leauing to debate this queſtion preſently, which woulde be bothe long and tedious, they wil only anſwere you thus. That if they bee rebels, you ought to leaue that to the Iudgemẽt of his Maieſtie, vnto whome they ſubmitted themſelues by their foreſaid requeſt, & that you ought not (by ſending the ſame backe againe) to take away from his Ma.al his righte of equitie, & Iuſtice, & frõ thẽ all the meanes they had for their iuſtification. And as touching that which you take for a Maxime That it is not lavvful for any ſubiecte to take armes in handes, vvithout thorder and appointment of their Lordes: It will appeare to al mẽ of Iudgement, that it is ſuche a kinde of ſpeache, as can haue no good ground of truthe, becauſe it is ſo generall. For if the Lorde be owt of the countrie, and the ſaid countrie be ſodenly invaded by enemyes, I doe not thinck that your meaning is in this caſe by this your lawe, that men ſhoulde make adoubt of taking weapens in hand, vntill their countrie weare clene ouerrunne & ſpoilled. For by that meanes you muſt condemne the Dukes of Burgõdy the Predeceſſors of his Maieſtie, of fellony and treaſõ, for that they being then the vaſſals of

the King of Fraunce, yea (and that more is) lincked very nere vnto him in bãdes of blood, and hauing yelded vnto him their homage & fealtye, did take armes, not only without his appointment, but also against his owne person and estates in the feeld. Surely no mã cã make me beleue, but that the good Duke Phillip knew very well, what was the dutye of a subiect, whẽ as (to reuenge the deathe of Duke Ihon his father, who a litle before had slayne the Duke of Orleans brother to the King (he caused the King of England to comme into Fraunce, and made him Lorde of the Cittye of Paris, and of the best parte of the whole kingdome. If this lawe which now set downe here, were so generall as you woulde make it surely he had neuer atteined vnto the name of so good a Prince as he was accompted, neither had he lefte behinde him to his posterity so good a reporte of immortall glory as wee know of. Likewise his sonne Charles the hardy, when he tooke armes against Lois the .11. and defeated a parte of his armye at Monthelery: knew not hee very well that subiectes mighte make no sturre without appointment or auctoritie from their Lorde? wil you say then that our King doathe

wrong

wrongfully enioy the countye of Burgondy, the which was graunted by the same Lors and Charles, vnder the title that the subiectes did beare armes against his liege Lorde? But howe often hathe it been sene, and iudged to be right and reasonable, that the subiectes in particuler, and the Townes and Prouinces in generall haue taken Armes in such cases as this, not only without the appointment of their Lorde, but also euen against their soueraignes them selues, and yet hathe neither your lawe nor Maxime been of sufficient waight against the reasons, and argumentes that they alledged in defence of their equitie. Wherefore of force your conclusion cannot holde, when vs you inferre by this your Maxime, that they of Holland and Zeland haue committed an offence vnexcusable, in hauing taken armes against their Prince. For first you shoulde haue declared that the groundes, and occasions that forste them thereunto were not reasonable, or at the least not sufficient to maynteyne the equitye of their cause: and then mighte you haue had somme better apparace of reason. But surely it seemeth that for because you wolde haue the equitye of

their cause quyte suppressed from the eares of the worlde, and from the knowledg of his Maiestie; you haue cleane troden vnder foote and sent backe againe their requeſt: grounding your ſelf only vpon the opinion of ſuche of the courte, as you knewe before to bee aduerſaries to their attemptes. And I pray you, what if theis of owr ſide ſhall ſay, that they not only haue not taken armes againſt his Maieſtie, but alſo that they haue not ſtirred, but by his conſent and authoritie? Dothe it not ſeeme vnto you reaſonable, that the othe (which the King hath taken, and the expreſſe article wherin he commaundeth that no man ſhall any longer yelde obedience vnto him ſelf, than he obſerueth the points of the artiles that he is ſworne vnto) may iuſtifye their doinges, eſpecially ſeeing that bothe his Maieſtie is abſent, & that ſtraungers, vnder the title of his name, haue not only broken theis articles, but alſo ſoughte vtterli to diſanull thut ſollemne cõtract, the which he made at his entrye into Brabant, which is the chiefeſt of all the Prouinces he poſſeſſeth in theis partes? for as touching that which you ſaie, That to beare armes againſt his Maieſtie or his Miniſters is all one: I cannot comprehend, where of that ſhould be

grounded, considering that the King him self at his foresaid entry and acceptacion, dothe promise, sweare, & declare, that presently & ipso facto all officers, Maiestrates ad Mynisters, shalbe taken but for sciphers, & of no validity, who either haue ben heere before, or shalbe hereafter placed in preiudice of those articles, which he is sworne vnto, or that shal cõmit any thing against the same. So that the King him self dothe by his othe disgrade all suche ministers, and dothe put weapens into owr hãdes, to resist their iniquitye & violẽce. And if that you graunte that all this is trew, in respect of thẽ of Brabant, but that Holland and Zeland may be no partakers thereof: thẽ muste you needes Iustifie the Prince of Oreg, and all those that serue him, being bothe inhabitantes & naturally borne in Brabant, in that they wolde not acknowledge suche ministers, as haue violated and broken the othes and contractes of the King. And since that they wear not bounde to acknowledge or allow thẽ, but might take armes against thẽ it followeth that they might with good reaso occupie & enioy all those landes & Prouinces which did yelde any fauour, or denoyon at any tyme to suche mynisters, being

disanulled and disgraded. And as touching the rest of Holland and Zeland, their fault and offence can be none other, but that they bee not borne in Brabant. For I cannot thinck that you wil denie, but that the said ministers against whome they beare armes, haue broke and violated in a maner all those articles which the King was sworne unto at his firste entrye. And if thies things were not thus: what is he that seeth not plainly, how that in this point the Kings hands be fast tyed together, synce that your selues doe confesse, that in all matters Ecclesiasticall and touching faithe, he is bounde to be obedient vnto the Pope, his legates, and vicars. Dooe not we know how that, that Comission which was concluded vpon, and ordeined amongest your ecclesiastical persons, and Bishops, to roote owt this owr religion, which you call new, was inuented and forged by Pope Pius the fourthe, being sollicited therevnto by Doctor Sonius who for that cause remayned at Rome byt hespace of three or fower yeares, & afterwarde broughte amongest vs into theis quarters the pestilet seed of theis troubles, & calamities, that we feele at this day? Do not we know

knowe that it was onely the Pope, which gaue cõmaundemẽt to the king, that thordinaũces of the Councell of Trent should be published here, againste the which all the Estates both Ecclesiasticall and Temporall did set themselues to withstand, as a thing preiudiciall against the aunciente lawes, customes and priuiledges which the king hath sworn vnto vs? Briefly, haue not all the Instruments and Authours of this Tragedy bin created onely by the Pope? And who is ignorãt I pray you, that the Pope in his decrees doth openly vaunte that all kinges and Princes are bound to hold all their Crownes and Scepters of him, and to obey him in euery point? Haue we not learned of our aunceſtours, how that the Popes of Rome haue cõmaunded at their pleasure, the most noble Emperours and Princes of Christendome, and sought to execute their wils by excommunicating and accursinge of them, as often as they would resist their pleasures? Frõ whence proceeded those cruell and bloudy warres betweene the three Henries, Fredericke and Philip, and an infinite nomber of other Emperours against the Popes of Rome: but for because that the same Emperours, would not obey their Commaundementes,

some-

sometimes when they willed them to make warre in all hast vppon the Sarrasins, sometimes when they would haue them leaue of that title which they had receiued by succession of their auncestours, sometimes when the Popes themselues would be put in possession of certaine townes and territories, which they said, they should inherite as the patrimony of S. Peter, and finally vppon any cause that it pleased them to picke, whereof all the Chronicles and Histories be filled. And what was the cause why Pope Alexander marched in publique place vppon the necke of the Emperour Fredericke Barbarossa, at-

obedience vnto him self, than he obserueth the points of the artiles that he is sworne vnto) may iustifie their doinges, especially seeing that bothe his Maiestie is absent, & that straungers, vnder the title of his name, haue not only broken their articles, but also sought to vtterly to disanull that sollemne contract, the which he made at his entrye into Brabant, which is the chiefest of all the Prouinces he possesseth in their partes: for as touching that which you saie, That to beare armes against his Maiestie or his Ministers is all one: I cannot comprehend, where of that should be

ther say or beleue, that his Ma. doth cõmãd absolutely amõgst vs what he listeth himself, specially in such a matter wherin ỹ Pope pretendeth to haue more interrest than any man aline? I beseech you if the king wouldе here our requestes, & finding thē grounded vppon good reasons, were willing to grãt vs the exercise of our religiõ do you thick that it were lawfull for him so to do? Your selfe haue tould me very plainly, ỹ if the king would cõdiscẽd to any such matter, you would take armes agãst him, & cause (to your power) the whole cõtrie to rebell. And this I am sure your self will not denie to haue said, whē I was with you

must you needes Iustifie the Prince of Oreg, and all those that serue him, being bothe inhabitantes & naturally borne in Brabant, in that they wolde not acknowledge suche ministers, as haue violated and broken the othes and contractes of the King. And since that they wear not bounde to acknowledge or allow thē, but might take armes against thē it followeth that they might with good reaso occupie & enioy all those landes & Prouinces which did yelde any fauour, or deuocyon at any tyme to suche mynisters, being

disanulled and disgraded. And as touching the rest of Holland and Zeland, their fault and offence can be none other, but that they bee not borne in Brabant. For I cannot thinck that you wil denie, but that the said ministers against whome they beare armes, haue broke and violated in a maner all those articles which the King was sworne unto at his firste entrye. And if thies things were not thus: what is he that seeth not plainly, how that in this point the Kings hands be fast tyed together, synce that your selues doe confesse, that in all matters Ecclesiasticall and touching faithe, he is bounde to be obedient vnto the Pope, his legates, and vicars. Dooe not we know how that, that Comission which was concluded vpon, and ordeined amongest your ecclesiasticall persons, and Bishops, to roote owt this owr religion, which you call new, was inuented and forged by Pope Pius the foure the, being sollicited therevnto by Doctor Sonius who for that cause remayned at Rome by the space of three or fower yeares, & afterwarde broughte amongest vs into theis quarters the pestilet seed of theis troubles, & calamities, that we feele at this day? Do not we know

knowe that it was onely the Pope, which gaue cõmaundemẽt to the king, that thordinaũces of the Councell of Trent ſhould be publiſhed here, againſte the whiche all the Eſtates both Eccleſiaſticall and Temporall did ſet themſelues to withſtand, as a thing preiudiciall againſt the auncientе lawes, cuſtomes and priuiledges which the king hath ſworn vnto vs? Briefly, haue not all the Inſtruments and Authours of this Tragedy bin created onely by the Pope? And who is ignorãt I pray you, that the Pope in his decrees doth openly vaunte that all kinges and Princes are bound to hold all their Crownes and Scepters of him, and to obey him in euery point? Haue we not learned of our auncеſtours, how that the Popes of Rome haue cõmaunded at their pleaſure, the moſt noble Emperours and Princes of Chriſtendome, and ſought to execute their wils by excommunicating and accurſinge of them, as often as they would reſiſt their pleaſures? Frõ whence proceeded thoſe cruell and blondy warres betweene the three Henries, Fredericke and Philip, and an infinite nomber of other Emperours againſt the Popes of Rome: but for becauſe that the ſame Emperours, woulde not obey their Commaundementes,

ſome-

sometimes when they willed them to make warre in all hast vppon the Sarrasins, sometimes when they would haue them leaue of that title which they had receiued by succession of their auncestours, sometimes when the Popes themselues would be put in possession of certaine townes and territories, which they said, they should inherite as the patrimony of S. Peter, and finally vppon any cause that it pleased them to picke, whereof all the Chronicles and Histories be filled. And what was the cause why Pope Alexander marched in publique place vppon the necke of the Emperour Fredericke Barbarossa, adding thereunto many wordes full of reproche and shame? And what is the cause againe, why euen at this day they make the Monarks and kinges to kisse their feete, but onely in signe and token of subiection which they claime as due? And presently if they be not obeyed, they thunder against them: and pronounce absolution vnto all their subiectes, although they reuolt frō that fidelitie which they owe of duty. Wherfore seeing that the kīg is so much subiect to the Pope of Rome (who in no wise we cā acknowledge to be our superiour) & since he feareth so much his thūderings & excōmunications: How can you ei-

ther say or beleue, that his Ma. doth cõmaũd absolutely amõgst vs what he listeth himself, specially in such a matter wherin ꝑ Pope pretendeth to haue more interrest than any man aliue? I beseech you if the king woulde here our requestes, & finding thẽ grounded vppon good reasons, were willing to graũt vs the exercise of our religiõ: do you thĩck that it were lawfull for him so to do? Your selfe haue tould me very plainly, ꝑ if the king would cõdiscẽd to any such matter, you would take armes agaĩst him, & cause (to your power) the whole coũtrie to rebell. And this I am sure your self wil not denie to haue said, whẽ I was with you at Mountford. Wher thẽ remayneth the fre auctoritie of the king to cõmaund? where is ꝑ greatnes of his Ma. yea rather what becommeth of his liberty & of your Maxime, that no subiectꝛ may take armes in hãd without ꝑ appointmẽt of his king & lord, seing that one only vassal wil to his power cause al his Estats to rebell, if that the aduice & opinion of his Maiesty, touching the cause of his Coũtry & subiectꝛs, shal not agre with his cõceite? But I am contente to pardon you herein, considering the zeale which you beare to the Romishe Religion, vppon condition that you

will

will imagine that oure zeale which we beare vnto our Apostolicall Religiõ of the Gospel, is not a whit lesse, although peraduenture it is neither so plausible in mans capacitie, neyther so profitable to them that maintaine it. Yet haue we examples very freshe of the Emperour Charles of noble memorie, who escaped very hardly from beinge excommunicated by Pope Paulus 3. for that hee graunted vnto the Almaynes but onely the Interim, which was almost conformable in all poincts vnto the decrees of the Pope. And I pray you what ado was there when he willed that a generall Counsell shoulde be called in Almaine, where the Almaynes might be harde in free disputacion? And finally was it not the Pope, that constrained him to make warre vpon the Christiãs, and did oftentimes threaten him with thundringes, if he wente not to worke with speede, in such sort that the Emperour was constrayned to couer the pretence of his warre with the cloke of rebelliõ, to thẽd he might draw vnto him Mawrice and th'other Princes which were confederates of the Smalcaldiens? I speake nothing here of the holy Inquisition of Spaine, nor of the Prelates of the Counsayle, which be of the Popes creation,

tion, and haue made a ſolempne othe vnto him, neuer to agree to anye matter that they ſhall thinck to be preiudicial to the aduaũcement of the Sea of Rome, but that they ſhall reueale the ſame, and reſiſt it with all their power. Who ſeeth not how that our king is ſo poſſeſſed with them, as hee is not able by anye meanes in the world, to iudge any thig in this matter contrary to their opinions & aduice, vppon paine of being condempned for a rebel vnto the ſea of Rome? Howe then can that be true where you ſay, that wee make warre vppon the king? Take away once the reſpect of the Pope and his Prelates, and bringe to paſſe that either the king himſelf be not ſubiecte vnto him, or els that he be content that we may be free from his lawes: and then ſhall you ſee how ſoone and how ſoundlye, wee will yeld our ſelues vnto the perfect obedience of our king & naturall Prince, as to one annointed of God himſelf to do vs right & Iuſtice? And if you eſteeme this to be vtterly vnreaſonable, and that you meane to make the minde of oure Prince to be at the commaundemente of other mennes willes: do not maruaile I pray you, if we pretend to be no rebels in ſeeking that he may gouerne vs by his abſolute

ſolute Auctoritie, without receyuing lawes from others. I come now to that other poinct where you ſay, That it is a very ſtraung thing for ſubiectes to force their Prince to aſſemble Eſtats at their pleaſure. Surely this ſeemeth very wonderfull, conſidering that you cannot be ignorant, how that the king himſelfe by his owne pure will, hath tyed himſelfe thereunto, as to the firmeſt ground and ſureſt ſtaffe whereuppon his auctority & power Regall doth chiefly (yea I may ſay, onely) leane & reſt. For ſeing the Eſtates in a fourme of politique gouernement, are none other thing but the chiefe and principall heads of the people repreſenting the body of the multitude: What thing is there, that can bee ſo naturally vnited vnto a good king, who deſireth to be both father and Paſtour of his people, as are the Eſtates of his Country? Eũe as for exãple, there is nothing that hath ſuch affinity with the head of a mãs bodye, as thoſe members which are called vital, for that they be the chiefeſt Inſtrumẽts by the which the vitall ſpirits proceding from the braynes to diuers ſinewes, are communicated in generall to the whole body, and to euery member. And by the which likewyſe, euery member retayneth his perfecte vnity,

and

and naturall knitting to the body. Euen so a good king, being the head of his people, doth by the meanes of his Estates, communicate and imparte vnto the whole body of his cõmon wealth, not onely his fauoure, grace & priuiledges, whereby he keepeth them in vnitie: but also his bounty, Iustice and wisedome, from the which as out of a quicke fountaine, do springe good lawes & Ordinaunces, whereby the people are still governed in good discipline, as it were in the lively being and naturall motion of the same. This is the cause why our auncestours excelling in wisedome and perfecte pollicy, haue very well ordayned heretofore, that especially the king should very straightly be bounde and united with the Estates of the Country, not to do any thing of importaũce without communicating the matter vnto them firste, as they on the other side oughte to behaue themselues vnto theyr Prince, as to their heade giuen to theim of GOD. From hence is proceedad the great and vniforme loue and Fidelitie, which Princes in these partes haue borne to their people, and they likewise to them. And surely this principle appeared in the person of the good Duke PHILIP, who at the firste

united

vnited all those low Countries into one body, and made many lawes, the assured vnitye which either is or oughte to bee betweene a Prince and his people. Esteeminge it better to be beloued & called father by them, than to be feared and redouted of thē. For he knew wel ynoughe, that loue is the surest grounde and faithfulleſt garde of all gouernmēts and prehemineces, in such sort, that they be greatly to be detested, and to be accopted publique pestileces, who to bringe theselues in credite by villanies and seruile flatteries, vnder the pretence of maintayning the auctoritie of our Prince, haue whispered in the eares of his councell, that whosoeuer talketh of the generall assemble of the Estates, doth catch at the Crowne from his Maiesties head. For surely these be the auctours of all tyranies, troubles, and insolencies: these be the disturbers of our common quiet: these be the enemies both of God and the worlde, although they attribute neuer so much wisdome and experience vnto themselues: doing in this case not vnlike vnto him that would dismember the parts of the body from the head, and depriue them of their vertues and naturall actions, vnder the pretence of doing good to the head. True it is, that

is, that for a time they seeme to yelde as it were a staye and proppe vnto the power of Princes in causinge theym in generall to be more feared than loued: but in thende they shew themselues to seeke noughte els, but the fall of Princes, and the ouerthrow of all their people at one time: as wee see most clearely by th'example of the kingdome of Fraunce, the calamitie and ruine whereof, hath not proceded from any thing els, but by the breaking of thordinauncies of the Estates generall, and by sufferaunce that the kinge mighte gouerne at his owne appetite with absolute authoritie, without hauing regard either to the body politique, or to them that should represent the same. I would to GOD that this poore Country of ours would behold it selfe in this glasse, which is so cleare & so neare vnto it, without fallinge into the same inconueniences. But our sinnes being already growen to a certaine rypenes, haue hastened our vtter ouerthrowe, in blindinge the eyes of such gouernours, as haue perswaded our Princes to thinck, that their ruine consisteth in the Assemblie of the generall Estates of the country, whose order is a common consente to resolue vppon such pointes, as do concerne the

tranquillitie of the ſame: whereas, if at the leaſt this had bin looke vnto in the beginning, before that thoſe troubles did breake out into ſo great a flame, according to thoſe inſtructions which the Gentlemen of the confederates gaue vnto his Maieſtie: ſurely then maghe all the inconueniences which haue happened ſince, haue very well bin auoyded. Yet at length let vs looke, although very late, firſt which be the grounds and occaſions that hinder vs from hauinge recourſe vnto that ſo ready and wholſome a remedie, which in times paſt hath alwayes bin the refuge both of Prince & People, when any inconuenience did threate them. You ſay That ſince the theſe Countries do conſiſt vppon diuers Seigneries, vvhich in degree, iuriſdictions and cuſtomes haue nothing to do the one vvith the other, but onely a neighbourhode vnder one Lord: therefore they are not to compell the king to aſſemble the eſtates generally. I beſeech you then ſirs, If wee ſhoulde demaunde of the kinge to aſſemble onely the Eſtates of Holland and Zeland, which Prouinces haue alwayes bin ioyned together, and that by their aduiſe hee woulde ordaine ſome conuenient remedies for theſe preſent troubles & calamities, euen as his Maieſties predeceſſours

ancessours the Princes of Bauier *were wont to do in the like cases, not adding any other to these Prouinces, except it were* Hainault *and* Ostrenant: *woulde you iudge then that wee had any reason on oure sides? At the leaste your argumente whereon you seeme to ground moste, would seeme to be of no force. And I surely do thincke that this particuler assembly (since that you cannot abyde the generall) were much fitter for the people of* Holland *and* Zeland, *than th'other weare which they demaunde. But I pray you consider what wrong they of* Holland & Zeland *haue committed in submitting themselues in their foresayd request vnto th'order of their Prince, without presuming to prescribe any law vnto him, or in referringe themselues to the iudgement of the generall Estates of all the low Countries, to whō they were content to submit thēselues, to thend that they might not seeme to seeke to be iudges in their owne cause? And if there be no reason at all to assēble the generall estates of so many and diuers Prouīces, in a matter ꝑ toucheth only one particuler Prouince: then I pray you, why should ꝑ protestatiō which the Estats of* Brabant & Flaūders *presēted, wherin they would admit*

Religion but that of Rome: bee preiudiciall vnto them of Holland and Zeland? Howe be it surely (if all be well considered) this disease is growen so generall in all these prouinces, as it cannot be remedied but by a medecine generally taken. For who knoweth not howe that in this cause, there are ioyned to Holland and Zelande, in a maner all Gelderland, Phriseland, and Ouerijsel wyth many both of the townes and peoples of Brabant, Flaunders, Hainault and Arthois? who vnderstandeth not, that (when this request was presented by those gentlemen in the yeare 66. there were almost as many of oure Prouince, as of any other, yea and that the nomber of them of Hainaulte, Arthois and Namin did farre exceede them of Holland and Zelande? Wherefore if some haue bin frighted by force and threatninges, some other oppressed by the tyranny of the Duke of Alua, and some againe haue not bin able to finde oute the oportunities and open wayes which they of Holland and Zeland haue founde: is it therefore to be saide that they ought to be barred from giuinge ayde and remedie to quench this great fier, and generall cause of Ruine? No: for this is certaine, that

the

the harme which proceedeth of theſe warres, doth touche the other Prouinces as neere as it doth Holland *and* Zeland. *For if it happen that theſe Countryes bee either deſtroyed or alienated from the obedience of the Kinge. Conſider I pray you whether* Braband *and* Flaunders *with many other Prouinces ſhalbe ſubiect to any inuaſion that firſt will aſſaulte them or not, and how in ſuch neceſſitie, hauinge loſte the commoditie of the Sea, they may be releaued with vitaile, or ſuccoured from* Spaine *or* Italie? *In ſo much that to barre a nother Prouinces from this generalitie, is nought els than to ſeeke the meanes to deprriue the Kinge and his ſucceſſours from all poſſeſſion of any eſtate or Prouince in theſe parts. But let vs ſee how theſe matters will hang together. You ſay,* That it is but by ſpeciall grace and fauour, that the auncestours of our king haue ſuffered and permitted a generall Conuocation of the Eſtates in vrgente affayres. *Admit that it were ſo; yet ſurely it were a great diſcurteſie to perſwade the king to ſhew leſſe fauour vnto theſe Countries than his predeceſſours haue done; and it were the waye to force him to ſeeke ſome other kinde of ſuperioritie, and gouernemente, cleane cō-*

trary to that which they followed, in such sort that thereof nought els can be hoped for, tha a contrary fruit to that which they gathered, that is to say, the hatred of subiects in steede of loue, and tyranny in place of good gouernment, and finally vtter destruction in steede of flourishing prosperitie. But sure I cannot imagine that you are so ignorant of the Chronicles, or such a straunger to the knowledge of the state of these Countries, as that you know not how that since the time of Charlemayne, these Countries and Prouinces haue euer bin united in one body together, with many other neighbours & borderers, vnder the title of beinge called Austrasia or Lorein, which toke that name, for that in diuision, that part fel to one of his nephews called Lhothayre: and how that afterward by diuersity of successours, beinge dismembred thone from the other, yet they did alwayes keepe a certaine vnitie of Amitie and alliaunce together, euen vntill the tyme of the good Duke Philip, who broughte them againe vnto one body, and tyed them fast and vnseperable by many good ordinaunces, lawes and priuiledges, which he gaue vnto them in generall, shewinghim selfe therein to be both a father to

his

his Country, & a paſtour to his people, in ſuch ſort that it was offred vnto him by the Empe-rour and Pope for that tyme, to make therof a kyngdome, the which he would neuer agree vnto, both becauſe that he would not offer by ſuch innouations any kinde of preiudice vn-to the Priuiledges of the Prouinces and Tow-nes particulerly, nesther yet go againſt the o-thes that he had ſworne vnto them. And if you liſte to alledge, that oure Kinge doth at this preſent occupie certain prouinces which then had nothing a do with them: I will ann-ſwere, that likewiſe the foreſaid Duke did at that time enioy certaine others, almoſt of like importaunce, the which haue ſince that time bin ſeperated, and diſmembred in ſuch ſort, that the ſaid good Duke Philip being recei-ued into the poſſeſſion of Hollande and Ze-lande almoſt in the ende of his raigne, did leaue this coniunction of theſe Prouinces vnto his ſonne and onely heire CHARLES the hardy, who being of a more hauty minde went about openly to make theſe Countries a kingdome, had he not bin hindered part-lye by the Eſtates of the ſaide Countries whoe withſtoode the ſame, and partly by

the diſſeuour of the Emperour Frederick 3. who raigned at that time. But let the cauſe be as he may: hee left vnto his daughter and heire, the ſucceſſion of all the ſaid countries, as one body vnited and knitte together with many fiſte and ſtraighte bandes: after the which ſorte Maximilian her huſbande the Emperour, and his ſonne the Archeduke Phillip, receiued the ſame, and in ſuch ſort left theim vnto the Emperour of noble memory Charles the fifte father to oure Kinge: who being not content with the foreſaid coniunction and bandes, and as it were foreſeing how that afterwards ſome would go about to ſowe hatred amongſt them, and to ſet th'one againſt thother, vnder this pretēce that they had nothinge cōmon amonge themſelues: tooke awaye and aboliſhed from theim all the diuerſitie of Queſtions that mighte encounter them, ſome from vnder the Crowne of Fraunce, ſome from the title of the Empyre, and ſome from other places. And at a generall diet of Almaigne, by the conſente of all the Electours and Eſtates of the Empyre, hee vnited and broughte together all theſe prouinces into one compaſſe or Circle of the Empyre, ordayning and appointing that from

that

that tyme forward, all they ſhould ioyntly and vnſeperably be acknowledged too be of the Empire, and that for that cauſe, they ſhoulde pay in thordinary contributions of the Empire, as muche as twoe Electors did. And this hath been inuiolablye kept bothe of his Maieſtie: of noble memory, And alſo by owr king and Maiſtar that now is, ſo farre foorth as that his Maieſtie did ſende one S. of Hoochſtrate *into* Almaigne *in his name, to acknowledge the foreſaid prouinces as one bodye politique ioyned to the Empire. And for ſuch were they taken at that time: ſoe that I cannot ſufficiently meruaile, howe you can ſaye that in degrees and Iuriſdictions they be ſo dyuers, and that there is nothing common amongſt them, but only neighborhod. And I pray you how happeth yt then, that in all Cõtribucions and reliefs, they be euer aſſembled generally, and that the participaciõs of eache relif, is gathered according to the abillitye and facultie of euery prouince? Woulde you wiſhe that in the tyme of contributing, the prouinces ſhoul be but one bodye, and that whẽ they ſeeke to remedie the euident Ruine of the whole countrie in generall, eache ſhould ſeeke for their remedye in particuler, with owt*

ioyning

ioyning thone to thother? surely in my simple Iudgement this thing is not onlye without all reason, but also dothe smell of toote tyrrannius wyckednes. But what shall we say? when his Maiestie propounded the necessitie of his warre with Fraũce in the yeare 1557. in what sorte did the Estates then charge them selues with that great burden, but only in generall? the which warre in thend of nine yeres with a single fidelitye shewed towardes their King, & a woonderfull unitye kept among thẽ selues, they brought to happy end by their nine yeres cõtribuciõ, to the great glorye & honour of his roiall Maiestie. Is it reason then that in making warre vpon a straunge Prince, theys prouinces shalbe but one body, and the Estates vnited together: and that in turninge away from them selues an vtter ouerthrow procured by this ciuill warr: they shalbe counted diuers & dismembred, & not be suffred to assemble the estates general, to thende that by a generall remedye they may help and cure a comon maladie? But is it not plaine howe that in all thinges wherein any prouinces bordering together, may by any meanes be ioyned and vnited: theis countries be and haue ben always in the same sorte vnitid more than

any

any others? for from whence proceedeth that custome which they haue euer had to assemble the Townes and prouinces in the exercyse of the bowe, and other armes left vnto vs by our predicessours, but only by this vnitye? Howe cometh it to passe, that at feastes and publique places, the townes & prouinces haue bin alwayes called together by publique auctthority: but only to shewe the vnity of the poore countrie, euen as Grece *did by the assemblye at their* Olimpiades ? *Is not the name of the Base* Almaignes *or* Flemings *(as the* Spaniardes *do cal vs at this day) cõmon vnto vs all? The speache although it be distinctly of diuers sortes, yet is so comon amongst vs, that in the self same townes they be vsed equallye. The iurisdictions owt of owr soueraigne court, doe they not almoste generally proceed from Machlyne? and all spirituall processes, Doe not they of auncient custome proceed eyther from* Coleigne *or from* Maians? *What shoulde I say more, than that owr whole countre is but one Circuyte or Prouince of the Empire? Doe you then thinck yt so straũge, that an Imperial Circuyt shoulde assemble estates iointlie, cõsydering that it shoulde*

shoulde otherwise seeme monstruous, if one Prouince should be assembled withowt the rest? But paraduenture you will say, that this warre in the respect of Brabant *is no Ciuill warres: the which sayeng no man of Iudgement will affirme. And if there were none other thing to alledge, but that our King and the Emperour* Charles *had made all their Edicts and Plackartes of Religion in generall to all the prouinces, weare not that a sufficient Argument to confute your saying, that they haue nought in cõmon the one with thother? yea rather is it not a full iustification of the request of those of* Holland, *and* Zeland *in that point, if you will be ruled by right and reason* Quod omnes attingit, ab omnibus probari debet? *for if the rigour of those Placartes laid vpon all theis Prouinces in generall, hathe caused a generall alteracion of the people: Why shoulde not we assemble and call together the generall estates of theis prouinces, to remedye suche inconueniences as generally doe light vpon vs all? And sure this is the better cõfirmed by those two causes that you allead ged, for the which Princes in tymes past were wont to assemble generall estates, that is to witt,* the benefit of their Coũ-

trie

trie and the vveale of their affaires. *For they coulde neuer be better ſpoken, of than at this preſent, when we treat not of one ſimple benifitt, but of the whole ſaffetye of our cõtrie and eſpe ciall reſtitucion of his Maieſties dignitye. Wherefore if euer there weare cauſe to aſſemble eſtates in generallitye, ſurely now there is greater cauſe ſoe to doe than euer ther was. This notwithſtanding (if I may ſpeake of myne owne hed, witheowt thaduiſe of the Eſtates and Townes in theis partes) I doe thinck that if the King or his counſell be offended with this generallity, they will be content to haue agraunt from his Maieſtie that they may lawfully aſſemble the eſtates only of* Holland *and* Zeland, *and that it will pleaſe hym to ratifie that which they ſhall find by ſounde coũſell and deliberaciõ, to be fit for his Maieſties ſeruice, and for their coũtries ſaffetye. Conſidering that herin (as I haue ſaid) they haue had agreater reſpect to the Auctorite of the King, than to any thing elſe. But it ſeemeth that there is ſomẽ other hiddẽ cauſe which moueth you to be ſo ſuſpitious of this aſſembling of eſtates in that you ſaye* that this requeſt ſeemeth to be made as it were to tye him to a lavv, and to kepe him as a vvarde *I can-*

not

not beleue but that this proceedeth rather of some ill grounded conceytes, or sinister suspicions of suche in the court, as cannot disgest owr simple petycion, than of your owne good iudgement or aduise. I cannot be parswaded that you can digresse so farre from all reason. For surely you know well ynoughe, howe that the moste true and legittimate power and dignitie of all kinges, monarches, and Emperours, & the greateſt vnitye & prosperitye of all people and prouinces, dothe especialie cõsist, and principally depende vpon the assemble of estates: euẽ as it appeare thin Almaigne & in al other Kingdomes & Prouinces which are wel & quietly gouerned. For those assembles which we call Edictes in the comon wealthe, are euen the same which in the churce of God wer e called counselles, the which owr aũcestors, holy fathers & doctors in the Primatiue churche helde in suche reuerence & estimacion, as that they ordeigned that frõ half yere to half yeare, or at the furtheſt from yere to yere, generall Synodes should bee called as often as any necessitye required. Whereunto they euer had à moste soueraigne recourse, vntill suche tyme as that the great power of the Popes did subdewe the Synodes by their

absolute

absolute auctoritie, against the which owr forefathers at mani tymes, and especialye in the coūcell of Basil, did moste openly resist. They ordeigned that from tenne yere to ten yeares a generall counsell and Synode should be called thorow owt all Christendome wherūto the Pope himself shoulde be subiect. Which thing was so odious vnto the ambicion of the successours of that Pope, as that to their power they haue hindred euer since the assē-ble of the councelles, so farr foor th as that in the great necessitye of Christendome, and at the earnest solliciting of the Emperour Charles, the councell of Trent was at length called and prolonged almoste by the space of 30. yeres after with a 1000. Kindes of delayes & excuses to delay the same. After that likewise in the councell of Constaunce, Ihoan the. 32. one of the 3. Popes that were degraded at that tyme, being accused of 50. articles at the least, and all those cryminall, sighing sore, aunswered thus: that besides all those faultes, he had cōmitted a greater offence, & that was for because that he had suffered suche a free councell to be called, as him self was bounde to be ruled by, & the reby he him self was with great infamye deposed. I doe

alleadge

alledge all this, to showe that it is the parte of Tyrantes only so mislike generall assemblies, and that all good Princes Kinges and Emperours haue alwaies desiered theis dietes and assemblies, as all good prelates haue (to their power) procured the assemble of Synodes and councels in the Churche of God. For this is cẽrtein, that whereas many doe assemble together and consult, (whether yt be for the affaires of the cõmon welthe, or of the churche of God,) there ordinarily is God him self president, & sendeth his goodspirit, lightninge moste cõmõly the eyes of a number in suche cases, as paraduenture one alone or a fewe cãnot discerne a whit. Wherefore me thincketh that in this case they of Holland & Zelãd haue declared what great confidence they haue in the mercifull gouernment and clemency of the King, in hauing set before his face the true and only meane to pacifie the troubles of this countrie. For synce that in any wise they muste make no questions of Religiõ what coulde they in this worlde offer with more humilite and better right, than to submit thẽ selues to the Iudgement of his Maiestie: in a generall assemble of all owr estates, shewing therin that they feared not at all to haue

their

their cause brought to light before the face of the whole world and of his Maiestie, because they felte themselues cleare from all crimes which wrongfully were laide to their charge? And if their religion were so wicked as the Kinge is informed that it is: what can they do more sincerely than with humble sute to requeſt that it might be indged and tryed, enē by those who haue protested most plainly, that they will by no meanes admit or receiue the same? Cā there be any thing more conueniēt for the dignity and honour of his Maiestie, or for to expresse their owne faithfull seruice, than to submit themselues wholly to the indgment of his Ma. and of those Estates which he shall lawfully call together? It seemeth certainly that you amongst you do feare and flye from the indgement and aduice of the kinge, and that you take him to be so childishe, as that he cannot discerne white from blacke, or els that your selues must prescribe him what he shall do. For you hindered our requeſt from cōminge to his eares. It falleth out now, that your selues are they þ make the king a Ward, in that you will not suffer him to here the cōplaints and sutes of his subiectes. This is to take the Crowne from his Maiestyes head, &

to make your selues kinges: Considering that the dignity and prehemiẽnce of Royalty, doth not so much consist vpon titles and ritches, as in the discerninge & iudging of the cõplaints and requests of his subiects & in administrig Iustice vnto them. The pretẽce then of these Hollãders & Zelãders is so farre frõ makig him a Warde, as that ỹ onely mark that they tẽd vnto, is to set him at his full liberty again, which is to iudge Lawfully (accordinge to the custome of his Auncestours) vpon all the controuersies, & complaints of his people: which libertie you haue cleane bereft him of, & yelded the same vnto the Italian Pope, & to the Prelats of the inquisiciõ, & barred him clene both from hearing & iudging of his subiects causes. As touching the last point, wherin you say, That in your opinion his Maiestye ought not to yelde vnto our request, no not one iote: Surely I do most of all marueile, that you woulde wish the K. to iudge no otherwyse than as you list. If you be vassall to the K. leaue the choise to his Maiestie, whether he wil yelde or not, and do not you prescribe a law, before that he himself haue first herd our requests, & afterwards giuen his iudgement vppon the same. Otherwise you will gine the worlde to vnder-

stand

ſtad, how that you take the king to be ſo ignorant, as that he cannot iudge of his owne affayres, or els that your opinion muſt be a law, whereby his Maieſtie muſt of force be ruled. Well, if your opinion which you haue grõunded vpon your owne conceite, be ſo faſt ſettled in your ſtomacke as that you will not alter the ſame: Yet I woulde ye conſidered, that all the Eſtates and Cities in theſe quarters, be of an other minde. And peraduenture it may bee, that if the opinion of all the Eſtates in generall may be vnderſtood: the greater part of thẽ wilbe of our minde. If you thinck otherwyſe, why do yee not ſuffer the matter to come to proofe, by leauinge to his maieſtie full liberty to iudge & diſcerne of all ſutes & requeſts? except your meanig be, that we muſt of force take your opinion for the kings determinaciõ. But ſurely for mine owne parte, I cannot yet be ſo well perſwaded of your great modeſtie & wiſedome. Wherfore I am to requeſt you, that (without ſuffering your ſelfe to be any longer blinded wyth theſe cauilling pretences) you indeuour your ſelf in good faith & true meaninge, to further the tranquillity and quiet of theſe Countries, the which cannot by anye meanes be reeſtabliſhed, but by this, that the king-

king may have his auctoritie kept to himselfe inuiolable, in hearing and cõsidering the requestes and controuersies of all such his Subiectes, as crye and call for his helpe and mercye: that hee may see some remedie for the same, by the common aduice of the generall Estates of the Countrie, and that he suffer vs not to bee oppressed by the cruell tiranny of Strangers, who seeke nothing els but to satisfie their couetous mindes and greedines of gaine, with the price of our blonde and wyth the vtter ouerthrow & desolacion of his maiesties inheritaũce in these Prouinces, to the great diminishing of his Maiesties Royall Estate, not caringe a point though all this go to wracke, so that they may returne into their Countries againe, loden & charged with the spoile of vs, from the which I hope that Almighty God will defende vs with his puissant Arme, as he hath done heretofore.

IMPRINTED AT
London in Fleetestreate by
Thomas Marsh.

Anno. 1576.

BRITISH
13 JY 98
MUSEUM